

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Social Services Portfolio
2014-15 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 442

Topic: Cessation of Education Entry Payment

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Brown asked:

Is the Education Entry Payment to be used to assist people on income support to enter education?

- a. This is something that we should be encouraging correct?
- b. So people on welfare can get a better education, and go on to get jobs?
- c. So how can the Department justify cutting payments to people to actually help them get into education and go on to get jobs?
- d. Would you say this is a cut at the expense of people on income support who want to go on to further study and get into work?
- e. Isn't this completely incongruous with the Government's stated aim of getting people on welfare into work?

Answer:

The Government supports income support recipients to improve their employment prospects through study or training. Government funded study and training assistance for income support recipients is available through employment service providers and the FEE HELP and VET FEE HELP tuition loan programs.

The Senate has resolved that officers of a department of the Commonwealth shall not be asked to give opinions on matters of policy.