

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

**Outcome Number: 1**

**Question No: 968**

**Topic: Relocation Scholarship Assistance program**

**Hansard Page: Written**

**Senator Xenophon** asked:

1. In relation to the Relocation Scholarship Assistance program, in the past, how much of this fund has been allocated to students moving from rural or regional areas to capital cities to undertake higher education?
2. Is the assistance based on academic results or means tested?
3. How many students overall have been assisted by the program? Rural and regional versus those in major cities?
4. Did the Department ever track outcomes for the students who received the assistance? For example, how many were likely to complete their studies? How many chose to work in rural or regional areas after their study was complete?
5. What other assistance will rural and regional students have with relocation expenses once this scheme is repealed?

**Answer:**

1. Identifying students that received a Relocation Scholarship who had relocated from regional areas to capital cities would require a significant diversion of departmental resources from other business priorities and regular operations.
2. Relocation Scholarship assistance is not directly means tested. However, in order to be eligible to receive the Relocation Scholarship, higher education students must be receiving either Youth Allowance (student) or ABSTUDY (Living Allowance) (amongst other eligibility criteria), which are means tested payments.
3. The following table lists the number of higher education students (unique count) that have received at least one Relocation Scholarship during 2010-2013 broken down by major cities and regional home location.

<b>Remoteness Area</b>	<b>Number of higher education students that have received at least one Relocation Scholarship during 2010-2013</b>
<b>Major Cities of Australia</b>	45868
<b>Regional and Remote Australia</b>	38664
<b>Not Assigned to a Remoteness Area</b>	709
<b>Total</b>	85241

**Data Descriptions**

Includes a unique count of higher education students on ABSTUDY (Living Allowance) and Youth Allowance (student) that have received a Relocation Scholarship payment from the Department of Human Services (Centrelink) payment system for the 2010, 2011, 2012 or 2013 calendar year. Remoteness Area distribution is based on the recipient's most recent recorded home postcode as at the date their first payment in each calendar year was delivered using the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) 2006 Postal Areas (POA) to 2006 Remoteness Areas concordance.

Note: discrepancies may occur between the sum of the component items and the total due to rounding, caused by the use of a concordance.

Source: Department of Human Services (Centrelink) Administrative Data – Department of Social Services Extract.

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4. No.
5. The proposed measure will not impact on rural and regional student access to Relocation Scholarships.