

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Additional Estimates Hearing 2011-12
15 February 2012

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

TOPIC: YOUTH ALLOWANCE

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Nash

QUESTION No.: AI-166

How many students from a regional area in each of the last five years received independent Youth Allowance, living away from home? (Please break down into the ASGC-RA map zones.)

ANSWER

PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

In March 2010, the Australian Government introduced comprehensive reforms to student income support ensuring a fairer and more equitable allocation of resources by increasing access to, and better targeting, support to those students most in need of assistance.

The following table provides a breakdown by remoteness area of regional Youth Allowance students (dependent and independent), based on the recipient's recorded home postcode, who had received a living away from home rate in each of the past 5 calendar years.

Remoteness Area	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Inner Regional	25 234	24 180	25 780	28 311	28 600
Outer Regional	11 385	10 606	11 356	12 794	13 731
Remote	1047	922	982	1103	1125
Very Remote	356	261	280	266	264
Regional Total	38 022	35 969	38 398	42 474	43 720

Note: Remoteness area distribution is based on the recipient's home postcode as recorded at the date of effect using the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) 2006 Postal Areas to 2006 Remoteness Areas concordance. For independent Youth Allowance (students), a recipient's home location has only been an eligibility criterion for two elements of workforce participation since 1 January 2011. Therefore, it is possible that data that includes independent Youth Allowance (students) broken down by remoteness area may not be an accurate reflection of those recipient's home location.

Source: Department of Human Services Administrative Data (DEEWR Research and Evaluation Data Base).

The following table provides a breakdown by remoteness area of regional dependent Youth Allowance students, based on the recipient's recorded home postcode, who had received a living away from home rate in each of the past 5 calendar years.

Remoteness Area	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Inner Regional	7407	6600	6660	8155	10 883
Outer Regional	4125	3641	3575	4426	5725
Remote	438	363	335	395	470
Very Remote	170	108	92	97	123
Regional Total	12 140	10 712	10 662	13 073	17 201

Note: Remoteness area distribution is based on the recipient's home postcode as recorded at the date of effect using the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) 2006 Postal Areas to 2006 Remoteness Areas concordance.

Source: Department of Human Services Administrative Data (DEEWR Research and Evaluation Data Base).

As noted in Professor Kwong Lee Dow's Report of the Review of Student Income Support Reforms, as a result of the Government's reforms, more families are now eligible for student payments through parental means testing. The Report also noted that the *Bradley Review of Australian Higher Education* had previously found, '....Dependent young people from low to middle income families were unable to get assistance, while at the same time the rules for independence meant assistance was being provided to some young people from families with higher level incomes, even when living at home' (page 11).

The following table provides a breakdown by remoteness area of regional independent Youth Allowance students, based on the recipient's recorded home postcode, who had received a living away from home rate in each of the past 5 calendar years.

Remoteness Area	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Inner Regional	17 827	17 580	19 120	20 156	17 717
Outer Regional	7 260	6 965	7 781	8 368	8 006
Remote	609	559	647	708	655
Very Remote	186	153	188	169	141
Regional Total	25 882	25 257	27 736	29 401	26 519

Note: Remoteness area distribution is based on the recipient's home postcode as recorded at the date of effect using the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) 2006 Postal Areas to 2006 Remoteness Areas concordance. For independent Youth Allowance (students), a recipient's home location has only been an eligibility criterion for two elements of workforce participation since 1 January 2011. Therefore, it is possible that data that includes independent Youth Allowance (students) broken down by remoteness area may not be an accurate reflection of those recipient's home location.

Source: Department of Human Services Administrative Data (DEEWR Research and Evaluation Data Base).