

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Additional Estimates Hearing 2012-13
13 February 2013

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

TOPIC: Relocation Scholarship

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Nash

QUESTION No.: AI-52

1. What is the eligibility criteria for relocation scholarships?
2. Are students eligible for independent youth allowance that move away from home also eligible for this payment?
3. The criteria include a dependent person who has to live away from home to study. What is defined as 'live away', is there a distance criteria, eg they need to live a certain distance from place of study?
4. Refer to QoN SI-127. Is the information for payments of the relocation scholarship for 2012 able to be broken down into the categories of student receiving the scholarship? For example those in receipt of ABSTUDY, those who are dependent and required to live away from home and those meeting specific independent criteria.
5. Please advise the number of students in 2012 receiving relocation scholarships who receive dependent youth allowance at a rate of \$6,000 and under.
6. Please provide a breakdown of figures on the number of dependent students in 2012 who were eligible for the relocation scholarship and received less than the full rate of dependent youth allowance.
7. Refer to QON SI-127 and to the relocation scholarship expenditure table at paragraph 3. Can this be further broken down to show how much of the total expenditure per Remoteness Area was directed to students deemed dependent?

ANSWER

1. The eligibility criteria for Relocation Scholarships are set out under Division 2, sections 592J-K of the *Social Security Act 1991*¹. In summary, to qualify a student needs to be in receipt of Youth Allowance (or ABSTUDY (Living Allowance))² and:
 - be a dependent student who meets the criteria for payment at the 'away from home' rate; or
 - if independent, meet specific scholarship independence criteria³; and

¹ For ABSTUDY, eligibility criteria are set out in the ABSTUDY Policy Manual.

² A student must be receiving some basic payment and more than just the Rent Assistance or the Pharmaceutical Allowance component to qualify for a Relocation Scholarship.

³ A student who is independent can qualify for a Relocation Scholarship if they receive Youth Allowance (or ABSTUDY (Living Allowance)) at the independent rate because of one or more of the following circumstances:

- they have, or have had, a dependent child who is, or was, wholly or substantially in their care; or
- they are an orphan; or
- their parents cannot exercise their responsibilities because they are in prison, missing, or are mentally incapacitated or living in a nursing home and likely to remain so for an indefinite period; or
- they are a refugee (unless they have a parent living in Australia, or are wholly or substantially dependent on someone else on a

- be enrolled and undertaking full-time studies in an approved scholarship course at a higher education provider as defined in the *Social Security (Approved Scholarships Courses) Determination 2010 (No. 1)*; and
- study for at least 35 days in the relevant scholarship period; and
- not be in receipt of, or not likely to receive within the following 12 months, a precluding payment such as a Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarship.

2. See footnote 3 in answer to 1.

3. A dependent tertiary student can meet the requirement of needing to live away from home through one of the following criteria:

- travelling time between the parental home and the tertiary institution at which they choose to study is excessive;
- the parental home is an inadequate place to reside while studying;
- there is a compulsory requirement to reside at the tertiary institution while studying; or
- they are undertaking part of their Australian approved course at an overseas institution.

Excessive travelling time is where the time it takes for the young person to travel by public transport from their parent's home to the tertiary institution exceeds 90 minutes, including walking and waiting times. Restrictions due to lack of, or deficiencies in, public transport can also be taken into account.

4.

Remoteness Area	2012 Relocation Scholarships – Number of Youth Allowance Students							
	\$4000 Payment Total No.		\$2000 Payment Total No.		\$1000 Payment Total No.		Total No.	
	DEP	IND	DEP	IND	DEP	IND	DEP	IND
Major Cities	6607	2921	n.a.	n.a.	6068	4529	12675	7450
Inner Regional	5363	580	4278	278	2219	606	11860	1464
Outer Regional	2444	215	2532	129	975	172	5951	516
Remote	241	<20	255	<20	86	<20	582	32
Very Remote	49	<20	np	<20	23	<20	np	<20
Not Assigned	145	<20	<20	<20	74	20	np	np
Total	14849	3743	7124	419	9444	5339	31417	9501

long term basis); or

- they are a young person in state care; or
- it is unreasonable for them to live at home; or
- the student is specially disadvantaged.

Remoteness Area	2012 Relocation Scholarships – Number of ABSTUDY Students							
	\$4000 Payment Total No.		\$2000 Payment Total No.		\$1000 Payment Total No.		Total No.	
	DEP	IND	DEP	IND	DEP	IND	DEP	IND
Major Cities	70	76	n.a.	n.a.	80	101	150	177
Inner Regional	106	27	66	<20	36	33	208	67
Outer Regional	67	<20	40	<20	34	np	141	41
Remote	np	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	41	<20
Very Remote	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	np	<20
Not Assigned	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
Total	284	np	117	<20	166	158	567	289

Data Descriptions

Includes the following recipients:

Dependent (DEP) and independent (IND) recipients of Youth Allowance (student) or ABSTUDY who have received a Relocation Scholarship payment from the Department of Human Services payment system for the 2012 calendar year. Data as at 6 March 2013.

Remoteness area distribution for the \$4000 and \$1000 payments is based on the recipient home postcode the fortnight before payment date using the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) 2006 Postal Areas (POA) to 2006 Remoteness Areas (RA) concordance. Remoteness area distribution for the \$2000 payment is sourced directly from the Department of Human Services payment system.

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

Note: as home location is generally not an eligibility criterion for independent students, remoteness area distribution for independent students may not be an accurate reflection of their home location.

Note: as Relocation Scholarship data has been disaggregated into payment type and dependency status, there may be instances of double counting resulting in higher numbers than when the data is not disaggregated.

Note: In order to protect individuals' privacy, populations <20 are reported as "<20" and other data that would allow these populations to be derived are not provided "np".

Source: Department of Human Services Administrative Data - DIISRTE Extract.

5. The requested information is not readily available and providing the information would involve an unreasonable diversion of the Department's resources.
6. The requested information is not readily available and providing the information would involve an unreasonable diversion of the Department's resources.
7. Relocation Scholarship expenditure is paid out of the relevant program special appropriations and is not reported separately. Relocation Scholarship expenditure can be estimated for dependent students based on the number of dependent students by payment type and remoteness area as shown in the above tables, noting that the accuracy of Relocation Scholarship data decreases as the data is disaggregated.

Remoteness Area	2012 Estimated Relocation Scholarship Expenditure for Dependent Youth Allowance Students as at 6/3/2013 (\$m)
Major Cities	\$32.5
Inner Regional	\$32.2

Outer Regional	\$15.8
Remote	\$1.6
Very Remote	np
Not Assigned	np
Total	\$83.1

Remoteness Area	2012 Estimated Relocation Scholarship Expenditure for Dependent ABSTUDY Students as at 6/3/2013 (\$m)
Major Cities	\$0.4
Inner Regional	\$0.6
Outer Regional	\$0.4
Remote	\$0.1
Very Remote	np
Not Assigned	np
Total	\$1.5

Note: In order to protect individuals' privacy, some expenditure estimates are not provided (np) as it may allow populations of less than 20 to be identified.