

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2012-13
17 October 2012

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

TOPIC: Youth Allowance

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Nash

QUESTION No.: SI-124

1. In QoN AI-166, can the department please provide a further breakdown of these figures to demonstrate the number of students from regional areas in their 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th years of university accessing independent Youth Allowance, living away from home? (please break down into the ASGC-RA map). If this information is not available for the timeframe specified can it be provided for as many prior years as possible?
2. Can the same information be provided for regional areas receiving dependent Youth Allowance, living away from home?
3. Please advise the overall number of regional/rural students who are in their first, second, third, fourth and fifth year of university in 2011 and/or 12.
4. Can this information also be expressed as a percentage of the total number of students from all areas who are in their first, second, third, fourth and fifth year of university in 2011 and/or 2012?

ANSWER

1. and 2. Independent and dependent Youth Allowance data for AI-166 was provided by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations' Research Branch using their Research and Evaluation Database. The Research Branch has advised that the requested information on the breakdown of the estimates according to a student's year at university is not captured.
3. and 4. A total of 204 170 domestic students from regional areas enrolled in higher education in Australia in 2011 – the latest available data. The table below provides a summary of the total number of students and those from regional areas who were in their first, second, third, fourth and fifth year of higher education study in 2011 and regional percentage figures.

All Domestic Students from Regional Areas, by Year of Study, 2011

Year of Study¹	All Domestic Students	Regional Domestic Students²	Percentage of Total Domestic Students
1st Year	344 895	84 064	24.4%
2nd Year	219 272	50 494	23.0%
3rd Year	148 332	32 473	21.9%
4th Year	87 866	18 514	21.1%
5th Year	88 066	18 625	21.1%
Total	888 431	204 170	23.0%

Note: Includes full-time and part-time domestic undergraduate and postgraduate students from all higher education providers.

¹ – Year of Study relates to the number of years since a student commenced the course in which they were studying in 2011.

² – Regional domestic student numbers are based on students' permanent home residence postcodes using the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) 2006 Postal Areas to 2006 Remoteness Areas concordance and includes inner regional, outer regional, remote and very remote areas.

Source: Selected Higher Education Student Statistics, DIISRTE.