

**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

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

**TOPIC:** Independent Youth Allowance - regional - metro breakdown

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Hansard, 17 October 2012, page 90)

**QUESTION No.:** SI-43

**CHAIR:** Thank you very much. The time has expired for this session. Senator Nash, you wanted to put something on notice?

**Senator NASH:** Two very quickly. Thank you very much, Chair. In an answer to a question on notice, which was B137, you very kindly gave me some comparative numbers on dependant youth allowance student numbers. Would you mind taking on notice, if it is possible, to get a regional-metro breakdown of those numbers?

**ANSWER**

The following table compares those dependent students that received a maximum Youth Allowance payment based on the parental income test in the periods January-June 2010 and January-June 2011 broken down by remoteness area. To allow a direct comparison of student numbers before and after the Australian Government's reforms to the parental income test arrangements that occurred on 1 July 2010, only students with the following characteristics are included:

- Dependent students who received at least one fortnightly maximum Youth Allowance payment based on the parental income test only;
- Students receiving both the 'at home' and 'away from home' rates;
- Students who were younger than 22 years of age during the periods January-June 2010 or January-June 2011. The Government's reforms have resulted in the age of independence for Youth Allowance (and ABSTUDY) decreasing from 25 years to 24 years on 1 April 2010, to 23 years on 1 January 2011 and 22 years on 1 January 2012.

In order to provide a breakdown by remoteness area, a change in methodology was required from the one used to generate the answer to the question on notice from the 2012-13 Budget Estimates Hearings (BI-37). The change in methodology and the later data extraction date has meant that there are slight differences in total student numbers between the two responses.

Remoteness Area	January-June 2010	January-June 2011
Major Cities	103,341	127,138
Inner Regional	30,297	37,452
Outer Regional	12,949	15,380
Remote	990	1,165
Very Remote	207	242
Not Assigned	713	635

<b>Total</b>	<b>148,497</b>	<b>182,011</b>
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**Note:** Remoteness area distribution is based on the recipient's home postcode (as at course start date) using the Australian Standard Geographical Classification 2006 Postal Areas to 2006 Remoteness Areas concordance. 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 Administrative Data - DIISRTE Extract.