

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2004-2005 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 2

Output Group: 2.5 – Assistance for post school students including those with special needs.

DEST Question No. E675_05

Senator Murray provided in writing.

Question:

Please provide annual data on the numbers of recipients, and expenditure on, workforce age income support payments, from 1995 to the present, for example, the Austudy payment, Abstudy, and Youth Allowance (for full time students)

Note – Similar questions have been asked to Family & Community Services and the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations in respect of their support payments.

Answer:

Youth Allowance

	2003/04	2002/03	2001/02	2000/01	1999/00	1998/99
Customers (Full-time)	297,140	310,009	308,192	308,663	306,055	303,693
Expenditure (\$'000)	\$2,257,447	\$2,235,020	\$2,213,719	\$2,101,915	\$1,965,578	\$1,860,197

Source: FaCS Annual Reports

Austudy

	2003/04	2002/03	2001/02	2000/01	1999/00	1998/99
Customers	35,026	39,092	41,007	41,992	42,835	47,269
Expenditure (\$'000)	\$258,848	\$270,623	\$280,794	\$249,258	\$221,426	\$287,174

Source: FaCS Annual Reports

ABSTUDY

	2003/04	2002/03	2001/02	2000/01	1999/00	1998/99	1997/98	1996/97	1995/96
Customers ¹	52,426	51,562	50,451	48,803	52,500	50,500	50,700	48,700	48,000
Expenditure ² (\$'000)	\$171,349	\$164,483	\$123,277	\$136,605	\$126,932	\$130,498	\$129,889	\$131,694	\$128,490

¹ Source: Centrelink – the number of ABSTUDY clients who both have an entitlement and receive a payment in a single calendar year.

² Source: DEST Portfolio Budget Statements 99/00 to 04/05 and DETYA Annual Reports 95/96 to 98/99.

Youth Allowance and Austudy were implemented on 1 July 1998, therefore data can not be provided for those periods prior to 1998/1999.

Prior to 1998 the AUSTUDY programme differed in that all participants were counted. The current AUSTUDY is disaggregated into under 25 year old and above 25 year old participants. Therefore the data for the period prior to 1 July 1998 is inconsistent with that provided in the above AUSTUDY programme figures.