

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. E681_05

Senator Aden Ridgeway provided in writing.

Question:

How prevalent is the practice of Indigenous secondary students waiving their Abstudy payments and instead allowing another party, such as a school, to receive the payments?

Answer:

ABSTUDY

ABSTUDY policy provides direct payment to parents where they are bearing the costs of raising the child living at home. Alternatively where parents have sought boarding school enrolment for their child and applied for ABSTUDY assistance for this, ABSTUDY payments are made directly to the school.

ABSTUDY payments are not waived nor signed over to another body by applicants. Centrelink determines the ABSTUDY payee in accordance with ABSTUDY policy.