

## 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. E687\_05**

Senator Aden Ridgeway provided in writing.

#### **Question:**

What is the process for ensuring that parents and students are fully aware of their entitlements and make an informed choice to sign over those entitlements to another entity?

#### **Answer:**

##### *ABSTUDY*

ABSTUDY provisions make payments for school fees, including fees for board and tuition for students who go away to boarding school, direct to the school that provides the service. Neither parents nor students sign these payments over to another entity. When parents seek ABSTUDY support to send their children to a boarding school, Centrelink makes the payments to the respective schools on behalf of each eligible student following confirmation of the student's enrolment.

Centrelink conduct outreach visits to communities to deliver information sessions where details of boarding school payments are discussed. These discussions include advising parents and students about their entitlements, and about payment processes. Centrelink distributes ABSTUDY publications that inform the student and parents of the payments available to them at these outreach sessions. These are also available on the Centrelink website at [www.centrelink.gov.au/publications](http://www.centrelink.gov.au/publications).