

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2006-2007 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 1 and 2
Output Group: 1.2 Assistance for individuals including those with special needs
2.5 Assistance for post-school students including those with special needs

DEST Question No. E808_07

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

Income support

With regard to QoN E707_07:

1. The number of students achieving the independent rate of Youth Allowance through workforce participation seems high at 43%.
 - a. Is this higher than previous years? Is there a trend in this data?
 - b. Can DEST provide the number of students, and as a percentage of total recipients, who have achieved the independent rate of Youth Allowance through the workforce participation criteria for the last 5 years?
 - c. Has DEST examined the issue in any greater detail? Is it explained by students working more whilst studying, meeting the workforce requirements by taking time off study, or other reasons?
 - d. What is the age profile of students who receive the independent rate? Is it higher for students in their second or third years at university?
2. What is the status of the review of income support measures? Where is it up to? What are the reporting timelines?

Answer:

Income support

1. These questions are the same as E707_07 and a response has been provided to the committee previously.
2. The Department is providing a briefing and advice on income support matters to the Minister.