

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2003-2004 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

**Outcome:** 2

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

#### DEST Question No. E014\_04

Senator Bishop tabled on 5 June 2003

#### Question:

- a) With the Supplement loan being replaced by other measures in the Higher Education package could you explain their impact on income support payments?
- b) In particular what impact will the Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarships and Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarships have on Youth Allowance and AUSTUDY?
- c) In particular, will these scholarships count as income in determining the rate of Youth Allowance and will these scholarships count in the calculation for determining whether a person is independent for Youth Allowance purposes?

#### Answer:

##### *Support for students*

- a) The Living Allowances paid as income support for students will continue to be available for eligible students.
- b) The Department of Family and Community Services has provided the following response.  
  
Monies received under the Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarships or the Commonwealth Accommodation Costs Scholarships count as income under social security law and so may affect a person's rate of Youth Allowance or Austudy payment. This also applies to tertiary students who apply for the ABSTUDY Living Allowance.
- c) The Department of Family and Community Services has provided the following response.  
  
These scholarships will count as income in determining the rate of Youth Allowance but will not count in the calculation for determining whether a person is independent for Youth Allowance purposes.