

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2003-2004 BUDGET 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. E125\_04**

Senator Crossin asked on 3 June 2003. EWRE Hansard Page 261

#### **Question:**

A lot of boarding schools, of course, actually pay for their staff to go out to those communities at their own expense to complete those forms, basically. Therefore, either money needs to be provided to the schools for that air fare or somehow Centrelink needs to pick up that tab and send their own staff out – or provide money for that travel.

#### **Answer:**

*Payment of school staff travel to communities under ABSTUDY*

Centrelink have provided the following response.

Centrelink staff currently visit communities to assist parents to complete the ABSTUDY Form. Centrelink also has Community Agents who assist customers in applying for Centrelink assistance. Schools can contact their local Centrelink office who can make arrangements to visit communities to assist parents, care givers and students complete their ABSTUDY forms.

Under ABSTUDY policy, school staff can have their travel paid by Centrelink in the context of travelling to communities to collect students to ensure they arrive at school/return home safely but not for staff to go to communities to help fill in forms.