

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2006-2007 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 2

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

DEST Question No: E367_07

Senator Wong provided in writing.

Question:

The DEST Portfolio Budget Statement 2006/07 reveals a projected reduction in the number of recipients of Youth Allowance, Austudy and ABSTUDY. (Table 3.2.2B: Performance in delivery of Administered Outputs p.77).

1. Why is there a projected reduction in recipient of:
 - a. Youth Allowance
 - b. Austudy and
 - c. Abstudy?

2. How many recipients, in each support category, do the Fraud and Compliance initiatives expect to remove from the student income support system?

Answer:

Youth Allowance, Austudy and ABSTUDY

1. The downward reduction in the number of income support recipients for the forward estimates period is largely attributed to the current strong labour market and economic conditions and lower growth in apprenticeships than earlier estimated.

2. It is expected that the Fraud and Compliance initiatives announced in the 2006-07 Budget will result in the cancellation of payments for around 1,430 recipients from the three income support for student programmes in 2006-07.