SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2009-10

Outcome 4

DEEWR Question No. EW0062_10

Senator Payne provided in writing.

Question

The Government's "Quick Guide to Youth Budget and Other Relevant Measures 2009" Document

In relation to the changing of the eligibility criteria for youth allowance which will have such a significant effect on so many young people, why was the decision taken to provide so little detail on this matter in this Youth Budget document – the document devotes a scant 10 lines to the matter? Is it the case that the Government is happy to provide the so-called "good news" but could not be bothered to provide detail on the bad news?

Answer

Detailed information on the Government's proposed changes to student income support responding to the recommendations of the Bradley Review of Australian Higher Education was provided in a number of Budget documents. These include the publication *Transforming Australia's Higher Education System* and the ministerial statement by the Hon Julia Gillard MP, Minister for Education, entitled *Jobs, Productivity and Fairness – A Foundation for Recovery*.

In addition, a set of student income support Fact Sheets were released on the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations website on Budget night. These have been updated, as required, since 12 May 2009. An on-line estimator has also been made available on this website to assist students to estimate their possible entitlements under the new arrangements.