

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2009-10**

**Outcome 4**

**DEEWR Question No. EW0089\_10**

Senator Hanson-Young provided in writing.

**Question**

*What if there is no suitable accessible education.*

What if there is no suitable education accessible (appropriate schools, training institutions or courses?)

**Answer**

New sub-section 544DA(5) of the *Social Security Act 1991* provides that a Youth Allowance (other) recipient without Year 12 or an equivalent qualification is not required to include training or education in their Employment Pathway Plan if:

- (a) there is no locally accessible approved course of training or education (including any such course available by distance education); or
- (b) where there is such a course:
  - (i) there is no place available on the course for the person; or
  - (ii) the person is not qualified to undertake the course; or
  - (iii) the person lacks capacity to undertake the course because he or she has a physical, psychiatric or intellectual disability or a learning disability such as attention deficit disorder.

While this provision will apply in the absence of an approved education place, it should be noted that the *Compact with Young Australians* creates an entitlement to an education or training place for any government-subsidised qualification for young people aged 15 to 24 years. This is subject to admission requirements and course availability. As part of the Compact arrangements, state and territory governments have indicated an intention to work with their education and training providers to address issues related to the provision of education places, including in rural and remote areas.

In addition, young people connected to Job Services Australia will be able to receive help to access education and training programs to improve their skills, including through the Government's \$2 billion Productivity Places Program.