

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

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

Outcome 4

DEEWR Question No. EW0090_10

Senator Hanson-Young provided in writing.

Question

How many young people will find it difficult to comply with 'learn or earn'?

How many young people currently on Youth Allowance suffer from other disadvantage that will make it difficult to comply with 'learn or earn'?

Answer

Young people receiving Youth Allowance (Other) prior to 1 July 2009 will be transitioned to the new arrangements between 1 January and 30 June 2010. Centrelink will assess their ability to meet the new requirements as this occurs. As a result it is not possible to identify how many disadvantaged young people will be affected by these changes in advance of this process.

However, the arrangements have been designed to be flexible for young people who will find it difficult to undertake full time study or training, or 25 hours a week of part time study or training in combination with other approved activities. These arrangements include:

- exemptions for young people who lack capacity to undertake study or training;
- exemptions where a course, or a place in a course, is not locally accessible;
- the range of existing activity test exemptions, such as temporary incapacity or major personal crisis exemptions;
- the ability to include a combination of education or training and other approved activities amounting to less than 25 hours a week in an early school leaver's Employment Pathway Plan, having regard to the young person's circumstances;
- scope for young people with non-vocational barriers to undertake non-vocational activities concurrently with their education or training, or to address their non-vocational barriers prior to commencing their training or education if this is most appropriate; and
- the ability for young people to satisfy the requirements while undertaking activities in the following programs: the Adult Migrant English Program, Connections, Youth Pathways, the Language Literacy and Numeracy Program, Stream 4 in Job Services Australia, Disability Employment Services and Vocational Rehabilitation.