SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2009-10

Outcome 2

DEEWR Question No. EW0091_10

Senator Hanson-Young provided in writing.

Question

Homelessness

What arrangements will be in place to cater for homeless young people as part of Earn or Learn?
Quote from The West Australian 1st May (I've attached the article)
Ms Gillard accepted there were young people living in difficult circumstances, such as homelessness.

"But with creative provision of education, they can be back, back learning, back gaining self esteem and self respect and back gaining opportunities that are going to make a difference for the rest of their lives."

Answer

From 1 January 2010, the new Youth Connections program will offer at risk youth a continuum of individualised and flexible assistance to help them engage and re-engage in education and training. For young people who are homeless, Youth Connections providers will be able to identify support services to help individuals engage in education or training, that may not be offered in a traditional school setting.

The National Youth Participation Requirement ("Earn or Learn") will be implemented by state and territory governments, who will be responsible for legislation, compliance and exemptions.

The Australian Government is supporting the National Youth Participation Requirement by strengthening the requirements for receipt of Youth Allowance (other) and Family Tax Benefit (Part A), making education and training a precondition for obtaining this income support. Depending on the individual's circumstances, exemptions from this requirement may be applied to homeless young people. Further, participation in some Australian Government Programs, such as Youth Connections, the Adult Migrant English Program and Stream Four employment services will satisfy the conditions for Youth Allowance (other).