

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

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

Outcome **2**

DEEWR Question No. EW0092_10

Senator Hanson-Young provided in writing.

Question

Homelessness

What does Gillard's comment on "creative provision of education" for homeless people mean?

Answer

Under the Youth Attainment and Transitions National Partnership, the Australian Government is consolidating current programs for at-risk youth into a single program that will provide a broader range of flexible service options. The Youth Connections program will focus on engaging and re-engaging at risk young people into education and training; and increased flexibility within the program means providers will be able to be innovative and creative when assisting young people. 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).