

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

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

**Outcome** 2

**DEEWR Question No. EW0098\_10**

Senator Hanson-Young provided in writing.

**Question**

*Disadvantaged young people*

What safety net will be put in place for all these young people to ensure that they are not further disadvantaged and excluded from society by Earn or Learn?

**Answer**

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 disadvantaged 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).

From 1 January 2010, at risk or disengaged young people will be able to access support through the new Youth Connections Program, which will offer at risk youth a continuum of individualised assistance to help them engage and re-engage in education and training. Youth Connections will provide one-on-one case management and support and will focus on overcoming personal barriers and issues, such as mental health issues or drug and alcohol abuse problems, before providing assistance to re-engage a young person with education, training or employment.