

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

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

Outcome **4**

DEEWR Question No. EW0100_10

Senator Hanson-Young provided in writing.

Question

Youth Allowance - Information for young people and their parents

What information will be provided to young people and their parents in relation to how the program will work?

Answer

Fact sheet material and questions and answers providing information about the changes to Youth Allowance for both early school leavers and their parents is available from Centrelink and the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations website at:

http://www.deewr.gov.au/Youth/Pages/newsitem_ChangestoYouthAllowance.aspx

When an early school leaver applies for Youth Allowance, Centrelink will also advise them about the changes. This will include information about the requirement for early school leavers to undertake full-time education and training, or part-time education and training in combination with other suitable activities in order to receive Youth Allowance.

In addition to providing information about these changes, Centrelink will continue to undertake regular processes as part of their first contact with the young person. This can include referring the young person to:

- specialist staff, such as a Centrelink social worker,
- a Job Capacity Assessment where appropriate, or
- programs of assistance, such as Youth Connections.

If a young person elects to enrol in full-time education or training, they will generally receive Youth Allowance (student). However, if a young person is not already participating in full-time study, they will be referred to a Job Services Australia provider or other appropriate activity based on their individual circumstances. Job Services Australia providers are well placed to help young people access education and training programs to improve their skills.

Job Services Australia will help early school leavers prepare a written pathway plan which will (generally) include at least 25 hours of activities per week, including a part-time study or training component.