SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2009-10

Outcome 4

DEEWR Question No. EW0102_10

Senator Hanson-Young provided in writing.

Question

Exceptional circumstances

How will the system of exceptional circumstances operate and how will young people and their parents be made aware of these arrangements?

Answer

Study and activity test exemptions will be available in cases where an early school leaver affected by the changes to Youth Allowance (Other) is temporarily unable to meet their participation requirements, for example due to an inability to immediately access a course of study, during an illness, or as a result of a major personal crisis.

Young people requiring assistance with non-vocational barriers prior to undertaking education or training will continue to be assessed by a Job Capacity Assessor. If this assessment indicates that they have severe non-vocational barriers they will be referred to Stream 4 in Job Services Australia and will be able to meet their requirements by participating in activities in this service stream.

Other early school leavers may be able 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 it is unlikely they will benefit from study until they have reduced these barriers. In these cases, a Centrelink exemption from study or training may be required, but the young person may still need to participate in other suitable activities.

Job Services Australia will meet with early school leavers regularly to ensure they have the help they need to meet their requirements.

Information for young people and their parents is available from Centrelink and the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations website.