

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

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

**Outcome**                      **4**

**DEEWR Question No. EW0356\_10**

Senator Cash asked on 4 June 2009, EEWHR Hansard page 32.

**Question**

*Feedback given by rural and regional people in relation to the specific changes to workforce participation criteria for establishing independence under Youth Allowance*

Senator Cash—Would you please now outline the feedback that was given to you by rural and regional people in relation to the specific changes to workforce participation criteria for establishing independence under Youth Allowance?

Senator Carr—I will take that on notice, thank you.

Senator Cash—You will take that on notice? So, for all the rural and regional people listening in currently, because there are thousands across Australia doing that—

Senator Carr—I am sure there are millions—

Senator Cash—You are going to take that on notice?

Senator Carr—Millions of people hanging off every word.

Senator Cash—Well, there are. Amazingly, today there actually are, because this directly affects those people. Minister, since the announcement of the proposed changes that I have referred to, has your department become aware of any concerns rural or regional students have with the proposed changes to the youth allowance?

Ms Paul—Perhaps I can take that on. We really will need to go to the consultations arising from the Bradley review, which went on for a long time. We may have received representations—I do not have them here, though—so I am happy to take that on notice and get back to you about the range of representations that we might have received.

Senator Cash—Okay. At this particular point in time, you are not sure if the minister or the department has received representations from rural or regional families or students post the budget announcement?

**Answer**

The Bradley review panel conducted extensive consultations on a broad range of issues, including income support, between June and August 2008. In addition to consultations in capital cities, meetings were also held in Townsville and Albury. There were discussions about the criteria for independence. Student representatives participated in the consultation sessions as well as providing written submissions.

Since the 2009–10 Budget announcement of the reforms to student income support, a number of meetings have been conducted by the Deputy Prime Minister's office and departmental staff with rural and regional stakeholders.