

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy

DEEWR Question No.EW0214_12

Senator Nash provided in writing.

Program 4.4 – Changes to Youth Allowance (other)

With regard to the budget announcing changes to Youth Allowance (other) with the aim of stopping young people opting for unemployment and collecting Newstart:

- How many young unemployed people are expected to now go onto Youth Allowance (other)?
- How will the Department monitor their transition to study?
- How can the Department guarantee this will happen?

Answer

From 1 July 2012 Youth Allowance (other) will be extended to 21 year olds. It is anticipated that when fully implemented, approximately 25000 young people aged 21 years will be in receipt of Youth Allowance (other) at any one time. The 2012-13 financial year will be a transition year for existing recipients and consequently the number will be lower in that year.

Learn or Earn requirements will be extended to Youth Allowance (other) recipients who do not have a Year 12 or equivalent qualification. This means they will generally need to participate in education and training full-time, or participate in study, training and other approved activities (usually for at least 25 hours per week) until they attain Year 12 or equivalent. Other approved activities include paid work, participation in approved programs, voluntary work or work for the dole activities.

Activities are recorded in the Employment Pathway Plans of recipients of Youth Allowance (other) in employment and other services. The Department also monitors the movements of young people between payments such as Youth Allowance (other) and Youth Allowance (student).

Job Services Australia providers and Centrelink staff will be fully prepared for these changes.

Assistance in the 2011-12 Budget includes Transition Support for Early School Leavers to help eligible young people in Job Services Australia to develop basic literacy and numeracy skills, along with employment, study and life skills to a level that they need to succeed on their chosen pathway.