

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT & WORKPLACE RELATIONS
SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
2008-09 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome 8

DEEWR Question No. EW825_09

Senator Milne provided in writing on 30 October 2008:

Question

Student income support

Regarding student income support, will the government:

- a. Reduce the age of independence from 25 to 18?
- b. Increase the parental income threshold?
- c. Align payments to above the poverty line?
- d. Exempt scholarships from the income test?
- e. Increase, and index on an annual basis, the income free area?

Answer

On 13 March 2008, the Minister for Education, the Hon Julia Gillard MP announced a major Review of Australian Higher Education. An expert panel, chaired by Emeritus Professor Denise Bradley AC, has been established to examine and advise on how to progress a number of key objectives for higher education, including widening access to higher education and the role of student support programs in promoting social inclusion and individual opportunity. The Review Panel is scheduled to provide its final report to Government by the end of 2008.

Upon receipt of the Review's report, the government will consider the Review's recommendations. It would be premature at this stage to comment on any particular aspect of student income support that appears on the Senator's list.