

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 2009–10**

**Outcome 4**

**DEEWR Question No.      EW391\_10**

Senator Cash provided in writing.

**Question**

*Workforce Participation criteria*

Would a young person from rural and regional Australia who has qualified for Youth Allowance, having met the Independence criteria under the Workplace Participation criteria, receive any assistance to live away from home?

If not, how many young people are expected to fall within this category under the new changes to Youth Allowance by Federal electorate?

**Answer**

Yes. Under current arrangements, eligible students, having qualified for independent status under the Workplace Participation criterion for student income support, may also qualify for Rent Assistance, a low income Health Care Card, Fares Allowance and Remote Area Allowance. This support is in addition to the higher 'away from home' rate of payment of Youth Allowance and further assists eligible students who move from home to study.

Current arrangements can also include the provision of Commonwealth Scholarships, including the Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarship. However, currently, funding for Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarships is capped, which means that many rural and regional students miss out on this much-needed support.