SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 2009-10

Outcome ***4***

DEEWR Question No. **EW0536_10**

Senator Siewert provided in writing.

Question

Youth Allowance

What evidence is there that young people who are out of work and not in education or training have sufficient information about the Youth Compact and its implications for them?

Answer

The new requirements have been applied to young people claiming Youth Allowance (Other) since 1 July 2009. Young people who were already receiving Youth Allowance (Other) at 1 July 2009 will transition to the new participation requirements between 1 January 2010 and 30 June 2010.

Job Services Australia (JSA) providers have been issued with guidelines for the new measures and DEEWR has conducted a number of training sessions and workshops with providers about the new requirements and their role in facilitating appropriate education or training activities for young people. This information will be passed on to the young people when developing or reviewing their Employment Pathway Plan with their JSA provider.

JSA providers – including 34 Youth Specialist services across Australia – are well placed to work with this group of young people. A key feature of JSA is its flexibility to provide people with the right mix of training, work experience and other support they need to participate in their communities and to get a job.

Centrelink has developed a Fact Sheet specifically on the Youth Allowance participation requirement changes and DEEWR has prepared a Fact Sheet on the Compact with Young Australians. Both of these are available on the internet.

Centrelink: www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/publications/st058.htm

Compact with Young Australians:
www.deewr.gov.au/Youth/YouthAttainmentandTransitions/Pages/compact.aspx

DEEWR also has a website page on the changes to Youth Allowance (Other) which links to the Centrelink site:
www.deewr.gov.au/Youth/Pages/newsitem_ChangestoYouthAllowance.aspx
This DEEWR website has had 8,674 website hits since the changes of 1 July 2009.