

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

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

Outcome 4

DEEWR Question No. EW0537_10

Senator Siewert provided in writing.

Question

Youth Allowance

- a) How many young people do not comply with the requirements in the Youth Compact?
- b) How are these young people being provided with proactive support to comply and reengage with education/training and employment?

Answer

a) Compliance

The Australian Government introduced new 'learn or earn' participation requirements for Youth Allowance (Other) for young people under the age of 21 who do not have Year 12 or equivalent Certificate II qualification from 1 July 2009. Generally, these young people need to do full time study or training, or part time study or training with other activities, for 25 hours a week to be eligible for income support. If these young people have challenges preventing their participating in education and training, such as a disability or homelessness, these new participation requirements are flexible.

As at September 2009, there were approximately 54,650 recipients of Youth Allowance (Other) without a Year 12 or an equivalent qualification. This comprises both young people granted Youth Allowance (Other) prior to 1 July 2009 and those granted on or after 1 July 2009.

b) Proactive Support

At its 30 April 2009 meeting, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed to a Compact with Young Australians to increase young people's engagement with education and training pathways. Under the Compact young people under the age of 25 can obtain the necessary qualifications required to get and keep a job and start building a career. How all Governments will support these young people, and what it requires them to do in return depends on how old the young person is and what qualifications they already have. More information on the Compact is available at:

www.deewr.gov.au/Youth/YouthAttainmentandTransitions/Pages/compact.aspx

The Australian Government recognises that some young people will need additional assistance to meet the new participation requirements for Youth Allowance (Other). The arrangements will be flexible for young people who have complex needs or multiple barriers. Young people will be able to meet the participation requirements by participating in some Australian Government programs, such as Youth Connections, the Adult Migrant English Program and Stream 4 employment services through Job Services Australia. Participation in these programs will also assist young people by firstly focusing on overcoming personal barriers and issues, before engaging the young person with some form of education or training.