

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-2011**

**Outcome 2 - Schools**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0454\_11**

**Senator Abetz provided in writing.**

**Question**

**NATIONAL YOUTH PARTICIPATION**

*How is the National Youth Participation being monitored? What is the penalty or outcome when a young person fails to engage?*

**Answer**

At its 30 April 2009 meeting COAG announced the Compact with Young Australians, which is delivered through the National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions. In negotiating the Compact, governments worked together to agree a nationally consistent National Youth Participation Requirement, which is known as 'learn or earn'. By 1 January 2010 all jurisdictions had amended their legislation where necessary to give effect to this national minimum requirement. The state and territory legislation and regulations contain the enforcement provisions.

Those young people in receipt of Youth Allowance (other) and subject to the learn or earn participation requirements under social security law, who have the capacity to do so must undertake full-time study or participate in part-time study in combination with any of a range of suitable activities in return for receiving income support. As with all other activity tested recipients of income support, employment services providers monitor participation in the activities which they negotiate and include in each job seeker's Employment Pathway Plan.

Compliance action can be taken if participation requirements are not met. The compliance penalty varies depending upon the nature of the participation requirement the person failed to meet. An eight week non payment penalty may be applied if a person persistently fails to meet their participation requirements.