

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

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

**Outcome 3—Higher Education**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0667\_11**

**Senator Nash asked on 21/10/2010, Hansard page 102.**

**Question**

***INDEPENDENT YOUTH ALLOWANCE***

Senator NASH—Thank you. Do you do any forecasting—and I am talking specifically about independent youth allowance at the moment—at all of where you expect to be in another 12 months, comparative to the amount of students accessing it now?

Ms Paul—We know that there is a significant increase in the number of students who are able to access youth allowance, because of the policy changes—

Senator NASH—No, I am talking specifically about ‘independent’. Mr Griew—Forecasting is a term which implies a whole lot of meanings. We have estimates, which are agreed between us and the department of finance, which are the basis of the forward estimates, and these are based on the modelling and calculations that we did on which the legislation was considered and then passed. Ms Paul—We will take that on notice and see what we can get for you, Senator.

**Answer**

The number of higher education students estimated to be in receipt of Youth Allowance as at 30 June in each year to 2013-14 is published in the Portfolio Budget Statements 2010-11 under Program 3.3 Tertiary Student Assistance.

The department does not prepare separate annual estimates of the number of recipients regarded as independent for Youth Allowance purposes.