

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

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

Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy

DEEWR Question No.EW0668_11

Senator Nash asked on 21/10/2010, Hansard page 106.

Question

RURAL TERTIARY HARDSHIP FUND

Ms Paul—Indeed, if it looks like it has particulars for which we really need to go back to look at the rules and take it on notice, we will tell you that. Senator NASH—I think you are going to be pretty straightforward. Senator Chris Evans—So we will not table it. We will have a look at it. Senator NASH—That would be very useful. Thank you very much. In the meantime, then, we might move on to the Rural Tertiary Hardship Fund. This was part of the amended legislation for all of this, which went through in March. Can I ask how the figure of \$20 million was arrived at? Senator NASH—But how did the department arrive at the \$20 million figure as the appropriate amount for the fund? Ms Paul—I am not sure. I would have to check that. I will take it on notice. Senator NASH—It is a bucket of money? Ms Paul—I think it was part of the agreement, but I will take on notice the dates or whatever in which we might have provided advice.

Answer

The \$20 million allocated to the Rural Tertiary Hardship Fund was the amount identified by the Government as appropriate in the context of a budget-neutral package of student income support reforms.