

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

Outcome 3 – Tertiary, Skills, International and Indigenous Strategy

DEEWR Question No. EW0645_12

Senator Nash provided in writing.

Question

Regional students to benefit from youth allowance changes

"Re. to minister's media release 'Regional students to benefit from youth allowance changes' -

http://www.deewr.gov.au/Ministers/Evans/Media/Releases/Pages/Article_110914_090102.aspx

- Under the 'dependent' criterion – how many of the 4317 (or 55.2pc) additional 'inner regional' students receiving dependent youth allowance are getting the full rate of payment.
- Under the 'independent workforce participation' criterion – how many of the 3133 (or -28.4pc) less 'inner regional' students who missed out in qualifying were living at home with their parents and how many missed out because the unreasonable 30 hour a week work rule.
- Under the 'total dependent and independent' category – can the dept provide a breakdown of how many of the additional 7435 (or 25.7pc) regional students are getting independent youth allowance and how many are getting dependent youth allowance.
- Further, of those receiving 'dependent' youth allowance, how many are getting the full rate of payment?"

Answer

With reference to the data included in Attachment 2 to the media release *Regional students to benefit from Youth Allowance changes* by Senator the Hon Chris Evans, Minister for Tertiary Education, dated 14 September 2011:

- The 4317 figure is the difference between the end of March 2010 and the end of June 2011 figures for dependent inner regional higher education Youth Allowance students. It is therefore not possible to provide a breakdown of this figure at the level of each Youth Allowance recipient.

For dependent inner regional higher education Youth Allowance students, over that period there was a 38.2 per cent increase in the number eligible to receive the maximum payment based on the Parental Income Test (PIT) or exemption from the PIT due to low family income.

- The figure of minus 3133 is the difference between the end of March 2010 and the end of June 2011 figures for independent inner regional higher education Youth Allowance students who qualified under the workforce participation criterion. It is therefore not possible to provide a breakdown of this figure at the level of each Youth Allowance recipient.
- The 7435 figure represents the increase between the end of March 2010 and the end of June 2011 in the total number of regional higher education students receiving Youth Allowance.
 - There were 1321 more independent regional higher education students receiving Youth Allowance at the end of June 2011 compared to the end of March 2010.
 - There were 6114 more dependent regional higher education students receiving Youth Allowance at the end of June 2011 compared to the end of March 2010.
- As the 6114 figure is the difference between the end of March 2010 and the end of June 2011 figures for dependent regional higher education Youth Allowance students, it is not possible to provide a breakdown of this figure at the level of each Youth Allowance recipient.

For dependent regional higher education Youth Allowance students, over that period there was a 37.0 per cent increase in the number eligible to receive the maximum payment based on the PIT or exemption from the PIT due to low family income.