

**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. EW0672_12

Senator Rhiannon provided in writing.

Question

Youth Allowance – Tertiary and VET

Given the Commonwealth's recent move to increase the number of student enrolments from low-SES, indigenous and regional & regional backgrounds, can you guarantee an increase in income support so as to ensure these students can meet the living expenses associated with attending university and take advantage of the expansion in CSP from next year?

Answer

As a demand driven special appropriation, Youth Allowance expenditure is determined by the number of eligible recipients and is not limited to the reported forward estimates.

Youth Allowance payments are increased each year in January in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI).