

## Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

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

#### Outcome 2 – Schools and Youth

DEEWR Question No. EW0842\_12

Senator Scullion asked on 20 October 2011 , Hansard page 89

#### Question

##### ***ABSTUDY secondary - means test***

Senator SCULLION: That is the secondary ABSTUDY element. I am just asking these questions because that was the way it was broken down. This question specifically relates to ABSTUDY secondary? Ms Milliken: The same rules apply to ABSTUDY, whether it is secondary or tertiary, in terms of dependant students. There are some circumstances where parental income and assets tests do not apply. We could probably take that on notice and give you a more full answer. Senator SCULLION: If you just give me an indication of where to find it, I would be happy with that.

#### Answer

Dependent ABSTUDY secondary students applying for Living Allowance payments are subject to one or more of the following tests: Parental Income Test; Family Assets Test; Family Actual Means Test (FAMT); and Personal Income Test.

The Parental Income Test and the Assets Test do not apply to independent students, or those who are considered dependent where one or both parents are:

- in receipt of an income support payment
- in receipt of Farm Family Support Scheme or Exceptional Circumstance Relief payments under Part 5 or 6 of the *Farm Household Support Act 1992*
- holders of a current Health Care Card (HCC) or Low Income Health Care Card, including a HCC issued on the basis of receipt of maximum rate Family Tax Benefit Part A
- in receipt of ABSTUDY Living Allowance
- in receipt of a Community Development Employment Projects wage as a participant, or
- taken to be receiving their income support payment during an employment income nil rate period.

The FAMT does not apply when a parent is receiving payment under the Farm Family Support Scheme or Exceptional Circumstances Relief Payment provisions for that part of the calendar year in which they receive payment until 31 December of that year.

The means tests that determine the level of entitlement payable are described in Part VII of the ABSTUDY Policy Manual, accessible at:  
[www.deewr.gov.au/Indigenous/Schooling/Programs/Pages/abstudy.aspx](http://www.deewr.gov.au/Indigenous/Schooling/Programs/Pages/abstudy.aspx).