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5 EMPLOYMENT, WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND EDUCATION REFERENCES COMMITTEE—REFERENCES

Senator George Campbell, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved business of the Senate notice of motion no. 3—That the following matter be referred to the Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee for inquiry and report by 25 November 2004:

The living costs of students enrolled in full-time and part-time courses and, in particular:

- (a) current measures for student income support, including Youth Allowance, Austudy and Abstudy, with reference to:
 - (i) the adequacy of these payments,
 - (ii) the age of independence,
 - (iii) the parental income test threshold, and
 - (iv) the ineligibility of Austudy recipients for rent assistance;
- (b) the effect of these income support measures on students and their families, with reference to:
 - (i) the increasing costs of higher education,
 - (ii) students being forced to work longer hours to support themselves, and
 - (iii) the closure of the Student Financial Supplement Scheme;
- (c) the importance of adequate income support measures in achieving equitable access to education, with reference to:
 - (i) students from disadvantaged backgrounds, and
 - (ii) improving access to education; and
- (d) alternative student income support measures.

