

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2013-14 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 9

Question No: 387

Topic: Student Assistance Programmes

Hansard Page: Written

Senator McKenzie asked:

Can you please provide an overview of Federal Government programs available to students, the total cost of these programs, the number of students in regional Victoria (outside of metropolitan Melbourne) eligible for assistance, and the number of students participating in these programs? eg. Austudy, Abstudy, and Youth Allowance?

Answer:

ABSTUDY

The ABSTUDY scheme addresses the particular educational disadvantages faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by providing support to students and Australian Apprentices to access and participate in education and training. The scheme provides a means-tested living allowance and a range of supplementary benefits for full-time Indigenous students and apprentices. Some supplementary benefits are available to part-time students.

Austudy

Austudy is a means-tested payment for students aged 25 years and over who are undertaking qualifying full-time study at an approved educational institution or undertaking a full-time Australian Apprenticeship. It is designed to encourage people to undertake further education and training.

Youth Allowance (student)

Youth Allowance is a means-tested payment which provides assistance to young people aged 16 to 24 years who are in full-time education, training or a full-time Australian Apprenticeship. It is designed to encourage people to undertake further education and training.

Rent Assistance

Students living away from home may also be eligible to receive Rent Assistance. Rent Assistance is an additional form of support available to students receiving student payments to help with the costs of accommodation. The amount payable is based on the amount of rent paid by the student above a specified rent threshold, and whether the person is sharing the accommodation with others.

Student Start-up Scholarships

Higher education students receiving student payments are also eligible for Student Start-up Scholarships, paid in two half-yearly instalments totalling \$2,050 in 2013 to assist with the up-front costs of items such as textbooks and specialised equipment.

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Relocation Scholarships

Dependent higher education students receiving student payments, who are required to live away from home (and some independent higher education students who are disadvantaged by their personal circumstances and unable to live in the parental home), are also eligible for Relocation Scholarships to assist with the costs of establishing and maintaining accommodation. Regional higher education students receive a higher payment in recognition that they generally have higher costs in relocating to study. In 2013, regional students received \$4,048 in the first year they live away from home, \$2,024 in the second and third years and \$1,012 a year thereafter. In 2013, metropolitan students received \$4,048 in the first year they live away from home and \$1,012 a year thereafter.

Student Payment Program Expenditure

| Payment | 2013-14 |
|---------------------------|------------|
| ABSTUDY Secondary | \$156.9m |
| ABSTUDY Tertiary | \$98.0m |
| Austudy | \$607.4m |
| Youth Allowance (student) | \$2,590.6m |

Note: Includes expenditure on apprentices receiving student payments.

Note: Rent Assistance, Student Start-up and Relocation Scholarship expenditure is not reported separately and is included with the relevant student payment.

Source: 2013-14 MYEFO

National ABSTUDY, Austudy and Youth Allowance (student) data by Remoteness Area

Note: Students only. Does not include apprentices receiving student payments.

Source: Department of Human Services Administrative Data as at 27 September 2013

| Payment | Major Cities of Australia | Inner Regional Australia | Outer Regional Australia | Remote Australia | Very Remote | Regional Subtotal | Not Assigned | Total |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------|---------|
| ABSTUDY (non-living allowance) | 7,006 | 5,138 | 5,225 | 1,744 | 4,589 | 16,696 | 43 | 23,745 |
| ABSTUDY (living allowance) | 4,459 | 2,127 | 1,785 | 353 | 665 | 4,930 | 16 | 9,405 |
| Austudy | 38,919 | 7,095 | 2,316 | 107 | <20 | np | np | 48,533 |
| Youth Allowance (Student) | 199,641 | 34,352 | 9,112 | 435 | 95 | 43,994 | 768 | 244,403 |

Note: Students only. Does not include apprentices receiving student payments.

Remoteness Index of Australia is based on the recipient's geo-coded address against the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Remoteness Areas 2011

NOTE: In order to protect individuals' privacy, identified populations <20 are reported as ""<20"" and other data that would allow these populations to be derived are not provided ""np"".

Source: Department of Human Services Administrative Data as at 27 September 2013.

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ABSTUDY, Austudy and Youth Allowance (student) data for Victoria by Remoteness Area

| Payment | Major Cities of Australia | Inner Regional Australia | Outer Regional Australia | Remote Australia | Very Remote | Regional Subtotal | Not Assigned | Total |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------|--------|
| ABSTUDY (non-living allowance) | 525 | 476 | 212 | <20 | N/A | np | <20 | 1,215 |
| ABSTUDY (living allowance) | 520 | 251 | 98 | <20 | N/A | np | <20 | 870 |
| Austudy | 11,461 | 1,699 | 202 | <20 | N/A | np | <20 | 13,364 |
| Youth Allowance (Student) | 63,174 | 10,970 | 1,191 | <20 | N/A | np | <20 | 75,353 |

Note: Students only. Does not include apprentices receiving student payments.

Remoteness Index of Australia is based on the recipient's geo-coded address against the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Remoteness Areas 2011

State based on the state recorded in the Department of Human Services Administrative system.

NOTE: In order to protect individuals' privacy, identified populations <20 are reported as ""<20"" and other data that would allow these populations to be derived are not provided ""np"".

Source: Department of Human Services Administrative Data as at 27 September 2013.

National Student Start-Up Scholarship Data for ABSTUDY, Austudy and Youth Allowance (student) Recipients by Remoteness Area

| Payment | Major Cities of Australia | Inner Regional Australia | Outer Regional Australia | Remote Australia | Very Remote | Regional Subtotal | Not Assigned | Total |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------|---------|
| ABSTUDY (living allowance) | 2,106 | 818 | 621 | 94 | np | np | <20 | 3,748 |
| Austudy | 34,215 | 6,877 | 2,097 | 103 | 25 | 9,102 | 90 | 43,407 |
| Youth Allowance (Student) | 168,149 | 35,293 | 13,149 | 1,132 | 277 | 49,851 | 655 | 218,655 |

Note: Number of students that received at least one Student Start-up Scholarship payment in 2013.

Note: Discrepancies may occur between the sum of the component items and the total due to rounding, caused by the use of a concordance.

NOTE: In order to protect individuals' privacy, identified populations <20 are reported as ""<20"" and other data that would allow these populations to be derived are not provided ""np"".

Source: Department of Human Services Administrative Data as at 27 September 2013.

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**Student Start-up Scholarship Data for ABSTUDY and Youth Allowance (student)
Recipients for Victoria by Remoteness Area**

| Payment | Major Cities of Australia | Inner Regional Australia | Outer Regional Australia | Remote Australia | Very Remote | Regional Subtotal | Not Assigned | Total |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| ABSTUDY (living allowance) | 225 | 88 | 27 | <20 | N/A | np | <20 | 340 |
| Austudy | 10,210 | 1,521 | 161 | <20 | N/A | np | <20 | 11,909 |
| Youth Allowance (Student) | 50,744 | 10,492 | 2,191 | 33 | N/A | 12,716 | 141 | 63,600 |

Note: Number of students that received at least one Student Start-up Scholarship payment in 2013.

Note: In order to protect individuals' privacy, populations <20 are reported as "<20" and other data that would allow these populations to be derived are not provided "np".

Note: Discrepancies may occur between the sum of the component items and the total due to rounding, caused by the use of a concordance.

Source: Department of Human Services Administrative Data as at 27 September 2013.

National Relocation Scholarship Data for ABSTUDY, Austudy and Youth Allowance (student) Recipients by Remoteness Area

| Payment | Major Cities of Australia | Inner Regional Australia | Outer Regional Australia | Remote Australia | Very Remote | Regional Subtotal | Not Assigned | Total |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| ABSTUDY (living allowance) | 339 | 271 | 204 | 33 | 39 | 547 | 36 | 922 |
| Youth Allowance (Student) | 21,355 | 14,624 | 7,006 | 651 | 159 | 22,440 | 285 | 44,080 |

Note: Number of students that received at least one Student Start-up Scholarship payment in 2013.

Note: Discrepancies may occur between the sum of the component items and the total due to rounding, caused by the use of a concordance.

Source: Department of Human Services Administrative Data as at 27 September 2013

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**Relocation Scholarship Data for ABSTUDY and Youth Allowance (student) Recipients
for Victoria by Remoteness Area**

| Payment | Major Cities of Australia | Inner Regional Australia | Outer Regional Australia | Remote Australia | Very Remote | Regional Subtotal | Not Assigned | Total |
|----------------------------------|--|---|---|-----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| ABSTUDY (living allowance) | 31 | 32 | <20 | <20 | N/A | np | <20 | 74 |
| Youth Allowance (Student) | 5,641 | 4,436 | 1,397 | 29 | N/A | 5,863 | 68 | 11,572 |

Note: Number of students that received at least one Student Start-up Scholarship payment in 2013.

Note: In order to protect individuals' privacy, populations <20 are reported as "<20" and other data that would allow these populations to be derived are not provided "np".

Note: Discrepancies may occur between the sum of the component items and the total due to rounding, caused by the use of a concordance.

Source: Department of Human Services Administrative Data as at 27 September 2013.