

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2016-17 Supplementary Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number: 1.10 Working Age Payments**

**Question No: SQ16-000322**

**Topic: Pensioner Education Supplement and Education Entry Payment**

**Hansard page: Written**

**Senator Rachel Siewert** asked:

In relation to the proposed cessation of the Pensioner Education Supplement and the Education Entry Payment, has the Department considered that these payments assist carers to learn and prepare for the workforce, for when their care relationship comes to an end?

**Answer:**

Carer Payment and Carer Allowance provide financial support to carers of people with disability or severe medical conditions. For recipients of Carer Payment or other income support payments who wish to study or undertake training, there are more appropriate channels of Government-funded assistance than the Pensioner Education Supplement and Education Entry Payment. These channels include HECS-HELP, FEE HELP and VET FEE HELP tuition loan programs and assistance available through employment services providers.

Additionally, there are income support payments, particularly Youth Allowance (student), Austudy and ABSTUDY, targeted towards students, taking into account their circumstances and needs. These student payments will continue and will not be affected by the removal of the Pensioner Education Supplement and Education Entry Payment.