

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2010-2011**

Outcome 3 - Higher Education

DEEWR Question No.EW0900_11

Senator Nash provided in writing.

Question

YOUTH ALLOWANCE – UNIVERSITY DEFERRAL

Did the government and department factor in the deferral policies of universities when deciding on the 30 hour a week work rule for 18 months to two years, for 'inner regional' students trying to qualify for independent youth allowance? Did you factor in concerns that students forced to defer up to two years are less likely to resume studies?

Answer

The package of student income support reforms introduced following the Bradley Review of Australian Higher Education (the Bradley Review) included tightening the workforce participation criterion for financial independence for Youth Allowance and ABSTUDY so that a young person is required to work full-time for an average of 30 hours per week for 18 months in a two year period. This provision applies across Australia.

This reform to the eligibility conditions for independence was a specific recommendation of the Bradley Review adopted by the Australian Government in order to better target student income support to students from low socioeconomic backgrounds.