

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2009-10**

Outcome 2

DEEWR Question No. EW0095_10

Senator Hanson-Young provided in writing.

Question

Mental health issues

What arrangements will be in place to cater for young people with ADHD and other serious mental health issues that inhibit them for interacting with authority figures who have had a lifetime difficulty relating to ability to learn or work as part of Earn or Learn? Will there be specialist case management available for people in these circumstances?

Answer

The National Youth Participation Requirement (“Earn or Learn”) will be implemented by state and territory governments, who will be responsible for legislation, compliance and exemptions.

The Australian Government is supporting the National Youth Participation Requirement by strengthening the requirements for receipt of Youth Allowance (other) and Family Tax Benefit (Part A), making education and training a precondition for obtaining this income support. Depending on the individual’s circumstances, exemptions from this requirement may be applied to young people with mental health issues. Further, participation in some Australian Government Programs, such as Youth Connections, the Adult Migrant English Program and Stream Four employment services will satisfy the conditions for Youth Allowance (other).

From 1 January 2010, the new Youth Connections program will offer at risk youth a continuum of individualised and flexible assistance to help them engage and re-engage in education and training. Youth Connections will provide one-on-one case management and support and will focus on overcoming personal barriers and issues before providing assistance to re-engage a young person with education, training or employment. For at risk young people with mental health issues Youth Connections providers will be able to identify support services to help individuals engage in education or training, that may not be offered in a traditional school setting.