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

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

**Outcome 2**

**DEEWR Question No. EW0096_10**

Senator Hanson-Young provided in writing.

**Question**

*Drug and alcohol issues*

What arrangements will be in place to cater for young people with drug and alcohol issues/ issues relating to family violence and abuse who have had a lifetime difficulty relating to ability to learn as part of Earn or Learn?

**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 barriers, such as drug and alcohol issues or issues related to family violence. 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).

Young people with multiple barriers, such as drug and alcohol issues or issues related to family violence, will be able to access assistance through the new Youth Connections Program, available from 1 January 2010. The program will offer at risk youth a continuum of individualised and flexible assistance to help them engage and re-engage in education and training.