SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION. EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE BUDGET ESTIMATES 2009-10

Outcome 4

DEEWR Question No. EW0354_10

Senator Mason asked on 4 June 2009, EEWR Hansard page 25.

Question

Regional students having to leave home to access study

Senator Mason — I think Senator Nash's question in a sense will partly address the second question I asked about students having to leave home to access study. If there is a regional breakdown, at least we could have some idea of whether students had to leave home.

Senator Nash — If there is not a regional breakdown, perhaps you could provide for the committee why it is not done?

Ms Paul — Yes. We can probably take that on notice. I think the tricky part will be to try to get to young people who had to leave, but we can try to do some analysis of the remote and regional.

Answer

The table below provides a geographic breakdown for those university students living away from home and receiving Youth Allowance, using Centrelink administrative data as at 24 April 2009.

The table groups the post codes according to the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA) which measures the remoteness of a point based on the physical road distance to the nearest Urban Centre in each of five size classes - major city, inner regional, outer regional, remote and very remote.

When interpreting these data it is necessary to consider that the home address provided by an independent Youth Allowance recipient may not indicate their parents' address in all cases.

Table 1: Youth Allowance (Students) By ARIA: Higher Education Sector

Payment Type	ARIA	Total students	Total away from home
Youth Allowance (Students)	Major Cities Australia	91782	43987
	Inner Regional Australia	21582	13387
	Outer Regional Australia	5478	3925
	Remote Australia	269	215
	Very Remote Australia	87	68
	Postcode not mapped	2905	1882
	Total	122103	63464
		Per cent	
	Major Cities Australia	100.0%	47.9%
	Inner Regional Australia	100.0%	62.0%
	Outer Regional Australia	100.0%	71.7%
	Remote Australia	100.0%	79.9%
	Very Remote Australia	100.0%	78.2%
	Postcode not mapped	100.0%	64.8%
	Total	100.0%	52.0%