

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

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

Outcome 3 – Higher Education

DEEWR Question No. EW0136_11

Senator Siewert provided in writing.

SKILLS FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Question

In Budget Paper 2 (p149) there is a significant allocation for “Skills for Sustainable Growth”, will this fund be used to assist in addressing the capacity constraints in the social services sector and the barriers to employment for disadvantaged job seekers?

Answer

The question refers to the allocation on page 149 in Budget Paper 2 for Skills for Sustainable Growth – A Training System for the Future – A National Entitlement to a Quality Training Place.

Under this initiative, the Australian Government is offering states and territories increased flexibility to utilise funding provided by the Government through the existing Productivity Places Program and greater access to income contingent loans, through VET FEE-HELP. This has been offered in exchange for a guaranteed training place for Australians aged under 25 years and for reform of state and territory VET systems.

The Government will negotiate with state and territory governments to enable the National Entitlement to be in place in 2011-2012. As part of this reform, states and territories will be required to submit a plan that addresses how they will extend the National Entitlement more broadly.