

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy

DEEWR Question No.EW0380_12

Senator Fifield asked on 31/05/2011, Hansard page 92.

Question

Utilities Allowance - Reasons for increase in Forward Estimates

Senator FIFIELD: That increase of \$5.25 million for Utilities Allowance, would it be a bit of CPI and a bit of an increase in the number of young people? Ms Milliken: Yes
Senator FIFIELD: If you could take on notice what the breakdown is, if it is CPI or increase in numbers of—

Answer

According to Table 2.4.4 of the Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Portfolio Budget Statements 2011–12 expenditure on Utilities Allowance for recipients of DEEWR portfolio income support payments is expected to be around \$3.5 million lower in 2011–12 than 2010–11 and continue to decline over the forward estimates. This is due to a continuing decline in recipient numbers for the primary income support payments, that is, Partner Allowance and Widow Allowance, which are either closed or have restricted eligibility for new entrants.

The increase referred to by Senator Fifield relates to the Sickness Allowance.