

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

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

Outcome 3 - Higher Education

DEEWR Question No. EW0448_12

Senator Nash asked on 1/06/2011, Hansard page 123.

Refers to previous DEEWR Question No [EW0900_11](#)

Question

Youth Allowance - Deferral Policies Of Universities And 30 Hour Rule

Senator NASH: I have a couple of final things, just following up on a couple of questions on notice from the last estimates. The first one is [EW0900_11](#). It was about a university deferral and whether or not the government or the department had—sorry, do you have those with you or do you want me to read it? It was whether or not the government and the department had factored in the deferral policies of universities when deciding on the 30 hour a week rule. The answer that came back was, pretty much, that the package of student income reforms introduced following the Bradley review included tightening of the workforce participation. It actually did not respond to the question. Is there a more fulsome answer you could give in terms of whether or not the deferral policies of universities were considered through that process? Ms Paul: What we are getting at here is that this was part of the Bradley review, so we would probably have to go back to that. I do not know that there is too much further we can take it really. Senator Chris Evans: The work was done by the Bradley review, I think. Senator NASH: As you can see, it actually does not answer the question. Perhaps you could have another— Ms Paul: I think it does, because it points to the Bradley review. Senator NASH: It does, and it includes tightening the workforce participation. It does not actually really refer to the deferral policies, which was quite specific. Ms Paul: I see. Senator NASH: Perhaps if you could take it on notice again, look at the Bradley review—if that is indeed the context—but point out where the deferral policy has been taken into account. Ms Paul: I am happy to give it another go. We may not get to that, because it was actually something internal to that review. Nonetheless, I am happy to take it on and we will see if we can find it.

Answer

The Australian Government accepted the recommendation of the Bradley Review of Australian Higher Education (the Bradley Review) to tighten the workforce participation criterion for financial independence for Youth Allowance and ABSTUDY as part of the package of student income support reforms. There is no specific mention in the Bradley Review Report that the deferral policies of universities were or were not considered in determining that recommendation.