

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2012-2013

Outcome 2 – Schools and Youth

DEEWR Question No. EW0369_13

Senator Nash asked on 30 May 2012 , Hansard page 71

Question

Boarding Allowance (Assistance for Isolated Children Scheme)

Senator NASH: What are the means testing criteria for the additional boarding allowance? Mr Davies: Sorry, I do not have the means testing rates here. Senator NASH: Okay. It would be useful if you could you provide that on notice. Mr Davies: Yes.

Answer

The Basic Boarding Allowance is not means tested. There is an Additional Boarding Allowance, with eligibility subject to a Parental Income Test.

To qualify for the Additional Boarding Allowance:

- the student must qualify for Basic Boarding Allowance;
- the income level of the applicant and (if applicable) their partner must be at or below the applicable upper limit for the Parental Income Test. The upper limit for the Parental Income Test for 2012 is \$53,390*;

or

- the Parental Income Test is waived due to a special assessment; and
- the student's boarding costs exceed the level of Basic Boarding Allowance.

The maximum Additional Boarding Allowance is payable where the parental income is less than or equal to \$46,355, with the rate reducing by one dollar for every five dollars the parental income exceeds that amount, and no longer being payable where income exceeds the \$53,390 limit*.

*The upper limit for the Parental Income Test increases if there are other dependent children receiving Assistance for Isolated Children Additional Boarding Allowance, Youth Allowance or ABSTUDY.