

**SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

**Inquiry into the Social Security Amendment (Income Support for Regional Students)
Bill 2010**

DEEWR Question No. SIH – H2

Senator Back asked on 17 December 2010, EEWL Hansard page 49.

Question

Senator BACK - You mentioned 5500 students are in this category. Do you know what the overall number of students is – in other words, inner regional, outer regional, remote, all combined? Ms Milliken – Could I qualify my previous statement about the 5500: it was estimated to be 5500 in 2011–12. Senator BACK – So what is the total cohort we are speaking of? The inner regionals are 5,500. Could you give me some idea what the total number is? Ms Sykes – Of students? Senator BACK – Yes. Ms Sykes – In higher education? Senator BACK – No, those who would find themselves in the outer regional and remote. I am trying to get non-metropolitan. You can take that on notice.

Answer

The Department estimates that in 2011–12 the number of non-metropolitan students (including both higher education and vocational education and training students) who need to move away from home to study is 7400.

Please note this departmental estimate:

- is based on the Youth Allowance and ABSTUDY recipient population as at June 2009;
- assumes that students from Inner Regional Australia as categorised under the Australian Standard Geographical Classification, could qualify from 1 January 2011;
- includes students in both the vocational education and training and higher education sectors who may qualify as independent under Youth Allowance and ABSTUDY; and
- is based on a departmental costing using the methodology used in the costing of reforms to student income support (Bradley Review). This methodology was agreed with the Department of Finance and Deregulation (DOFD).