

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2013-2014**

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

DEEWR Question No. EW0256_14

Senator Back asked on 6 June 2013, Hansard page 66

Question

Living Away from Home Allowance

Senator BACK: It is to do with the boarding and Living Away From Home Allowance entitlement. Students at Wadeye who board at the hostel are being funded by an ABSTUDY Living Away From Home Allowance entitlement. As I understand, they would not normally be eligible for that as they are boarding in their own home town. Firstly, is that the case? Ms Hippit: I would have to take on notice the details of the specific case, but I am aware that there are exceptional circumstances in which people living in the same location, if there is not a local government school to attend, are able to get assistance to attend a boarding school.

Answer

Under ABSTUDY policy, eligible students may access boarding payments, including travel allowances and higher rates of Living Allowance and School Fees Allowance, if they do not have reasonable access to a government secondary school.

In the specific case of local students boarding at the Wadeye boarding facility and attending Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Thamarrurr Catholic School, students in the Wadeye community do not have access to a local government secondary school.

In these circumstances ABSTUDY eligible students may access boarding payments to assist them to attend a boarding school. Students may choose to attend a local non-government school or a school outside their community.