SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2009-10

Outcome 2

DEEWR Question No. EW0123_10

Senator Hanson-Young provided in writing.

Question

Disadvantaged Young People

Is there any additional funding for the "creative provision of education" that Minister Gillard acknowledges may be necessary for young people in difficult circumstances eg homelessness?

Answer

Existing funding for a range of programs for at-risk and disengaged youth is being combined within a new, more flexible Youth Connections program which will provide better support for young people, including those with complex issues such as homelessness.

This could involve a range of education and training pathways including provision of alternative education as a first step.

The Government is also encouraging young people in difficult circumstances to return to education through changes to Youth Allowance (Other) and Family Tax Benefit (Part A). Young people will be able to access this financial support if they either undertake full time study or training or undertake part time study or training in combination with other approved activities for a total of 25 hours per week.

As indicated in the responses to questions EW009_10 and EW101_10, this will include capacity for young people to undertake programs to assist them with non-vocational barriers (such as homelessness) prior to, or concurrently with, part time study or training. Young people in difficult circumstances with multiple barriers who need to meet the new requirements for Youth Allowance (Other) may also be eligible for Stream 4 employment services and will meet their new requirements through participating in activities as part of this stream of service.