

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

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

Outcome 3—Higher Education

DEEWR Question No.EW0447_12

Senator Nash asked on 1/06/2011, Hansard page 115.

Question

Youth Allowance - Breakdown of Allowance into Brackets

Senator NASH: on the issue we were talking about, the maximum rate and the part rate: in each of those amounts, could you break down for me the students that are receiving less than \$100 a fortnight youth allowance; students that are receiving in the bracket of \$100 to \$200 a fortnight; students that are receiving in the bracket of \$200 to \$300 a fortnight; and a bracket of those that are receiving more than \$300.

Answer

The increase in inner regional higher education Youth Allowance students at the end of March 2011, compared to the end of March 2010, was 4263. A rounded figure of 4250 was used in the media release of 1 June 2011 from Senator the Hon Chris Evans, Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Jobs and Workplace Relations.

For inner regional higher education Youth Allowance students at the end of March 2011, compared to the end of March 2010, based on their Youth Allowance payment in that fortnight, not including any Rent Assistance or scholarship amounts they may have also received, there were:

- 578 more students receiving a fortnightly Youth Allowance payment of less than \$100
- 731 more students receiving a fortnightly Youth Allowance payment of between \$100 and less than \$200
- 971 more students receiving a fortnightly Youth Allowance payment of between \$200 and less than \$300
- 1983 more students receiving a fortnightly Youth Allowance payment of more than \$300.

The increase in outer regional, remote and very remote higher education Youth Allowance students at the end of March 2011, compared to the end of March 2010, was 2162. A rounded figure of 2150 was used in Minister Evans' media release of 1 June 2011.

For outer regional, remote and very remote higher education Youth Allowance students at the end of March 2011, compared to the end of March 2010, based on their Youth Allowance payment in that fortnight, not including any Rent Assistance or scholarship amounts they may have also received, there were:

- 269 more students receiving a fortnightly Youth Allowance payment of less than \$100

- 332 more students receiving a fortnightly Youth Allowance payment of between \$100 and less than \$200
- 300 more students receiving a fortnightly Youth Allowance payment of between \$200 and less than \$300
- 1261 more students receiving a fortnightly Youth Allowance payment of more than \$300.

In relation to the above response, data includes recipients of Youth Allowance studying a higher education course who are determined to be current (i.e. entitled to be paid) on the Centrelink payment system as at 26/3/2010 or 25/3/2011 respectively. Remoteness Area distribution is based on the recipient home postcode as at 26/3/2010 or 25/03/2011 using the Australian Standard Geographical Classification 2006 Postal Areas to 2006 Remoteness Areas concordance. Discrepancies may occur between the sum of the component items and the total due to rounding, caused by the use of a concordance.

The data is derived from Centrelink Administrative Data – DEEWR Blue Book Dataset.