

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

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

Outcome 3—Higher Education

DEEWR Question No.EW0450_12

Senator Fielding asked on 1/06/2011, Hansard page 125.

Question

Youth Allowance - Proportion of University Students in Receipt of Youth Allowance

Senator FIELDING: For those two periods you are comparing with, could you also do, for each of those categories that the chair asked for, a proportion of total students going to university for those two periods? It is a very interesting comparison between the two and I will be interested to see what it shows—the proportion for each of those categories of the total students going to university. Ms Paul: In other words, what you are asking there is what proportion of— Senator FIELDING: Students going to university. Ms Paul: —students going to university would be in receipt of the dependent rate of youth allowance or whatever? Senator FIELDING: Yes. Ms Paul: We would have to take that on notice. Senator FIELDING: And if I was around I could drill into it more and I would get those back because— Senator Chris Evans: I think when I asked the very same question we could not break down the attendance or the enrolment figures in the same way, because although we had the Centrelink database which is of those who are receiving income support through youth allowance, for the students who are not on that we do not have the same figures. All we have is the university enrolment figures, I think is the answer, but if I am wrong— Senator FIELDING: But you could actually do it from the total number of students at university and then just take a percentage of each of those categories, quite easily, and compare the two. Senator Chris Evans: Yes, but you cannot necessarily go down to the categories about away from home et cetera, because we do not have that information on there. I asked exactly the same question and I am giving you the answer I got, but we will take yours on notice and you might get a better result than I got. Senator FIELDING: But if you just do the macro, you actually take the category and just take the total number of students. Senator Chris Evans: Yes.

Answer

It is not possible to calculate the current proportion of university students in receipt of Youth Allowance by the various categories in which Youth Allowance is reported because the Higher Education Student Collections (HESC) enrolment data is not available for 2010 and 2011.