

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-2011**

Outcome 3- Higher Education

DEEWR Question No.EW0525_11

Senator Siewert provided in writing.

Question

YOUTH ALLOWANCE

What is the evidence that young people have lower costs of living than other groups in the community?

Answer

Costs of living are influenced by a wide range of personal choices and living circumstances – that is, geography, household composition, relationships and family circumstances, and work and study arrangements.

Youth cost of living is generally lower than other population groups for a range of reasons:

- youth are more likely to be single adults without dependents
- youth are less likely to be servicing high housing costs because they are more likely to be living in the parental home or in a group house on a rental and cost-share basis
- youth are healthier overall and therefore have lower health related expenses
- youth are more likely to live at home with financial support provided by carers and parents.