

Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES – 29 MAY 2008

Human Services Portfolio



Department/Agency: Centrelink
Outcome/Output Group: Outcome 1, Output 1.1
Topic: Youth Allowance

Senator: Coonan
Question reference number: HS56a-b
Type of question: Written
Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 11 July 2008

Question:

HS56a: When a student who receives Youth Allowance finishes their course, does Centrelink automatically move them onto Newstart? What date does Centrelink consider to be the ‘course end date’?

HS56b: If a university student finishes their studies in December, and already has a graduate job to go to in January, would Centrelink allow this student to remain on Youth Allowance for the month in between rather than forcing them to apply for Newstart and go to job interviews that they do not need?

Answer:

HS56a: No. Students are sent an ‘Information required for continuation of Youth Allowance’ letter, 28 days prior to their anticipated course end date. The student’s response to this letter will determine the appropriate payment for these students. The ‘Course end date’ is usually the last day of exams or the completion of the requirements of the course as determined by the educational institution.

HS56b: No. It is a policy requirement that once a customer loses their qualification for a student payment they may test their eligibility for Newstart Allowance. This will include the requirement to negotiate an Activity Agreement with Centrelink and be available for full time employment.

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