

Inquiry into Student Income Support

Terms of Reference

The committee will inquire into the living costs of students enrolled in full-time and part-time courses, with particular reference to the following:

1. Current measures for student income support, including Youth Allowance, Austudy and Abstudy, with particular reference to:
 - the adequacy of these payments;
 - the age of independence;
 - the parental income test threshold; and
 - the ineligibility of Austudy recipients for Rent Assistance.
2. The effect of these income support measures on students and their families, with particular reference to:
 - the increasing costs of higher education;
 - students being forced to work longer hours to support themselves; and
 - the closure of the Student Financial Supplement Scheme.
3. The importance of adequate income support measures in achieving equitable access to education, with particular reference to:
 - students from disadvantaged backgrounds; and
 - improving access to education.
4. Alternative student income support measures.