



Youth Allowance

FACTSHEET

MARCH 2011

STUDENT INCOME SUPPORT AGE OF INDEPENDENCE

The Australian Government is reducing the age of independence for full-time students receiving Youth Allowance and ABSTUDY from 25 years to 22 years.

Who will benefit?

Lowering the age of independence is part of the reforms to the student income support system. The reforms aim to provide better support for students and ensure that financial barriers to the participation of students from low socio-economic backgrounds are removed. The reforms support the Government's target of 20 per cent of higher education enrolments at undergraduate level being students from low socio-economic backgrounds by 2020.

The changes ensure equitable access to student income support payments for those in greatest need and recognises the increasing self-sufficiency of young people as they mature.

Implementation

Phased implementation of the measure reduced the age of independence to 24 years on 1 April 2010, and to 23 years on 1 January 2011. The age of independence will further reduce to 22 years on 1 January 2012.