Youth Allowance (Student and Apprentice) (YA(s)) – Payment Trends and Profile Report  
June 2015

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## About Youth Allowance (student)

Youth Allowance (student and apprentice) is the major payment for full-time students and apprentices aged 16-24 years.

## Youth Allowance (student) Quick Facts

Student payment numbers fluctuate with the educational semesters. As at June 2015, 51.2% of recipients were classified as dependent, the number has decreased by 4.8 from June 2014.

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| **Table 1: Youth Allowance (student) Quick Facts** | | | | | |
| **Quick Facts** | **Jun-13** | **Jun-14** | **Jun-15** | **Change Jun-14 to Jun-15** | **Change Jun-13 to Jun-15** |
|
| Total Population | 247,656 | 241,670 | 231,018 | -4.4% | -6.7% |
| Higher Ed | 175,572 | 183,825 | 178,170 | -3.1% | 1.5% |
| School | 30,054 | 14,668 | 12,992 | -11.4% | -56.8% |
| VET | 33,468 | 34,224 | 32,564 | -4.9% | -2.7% |
| Apprentice | 6,431 | 7,017 | 5,576 | -20.5% | -13.3% |
| Not Specified | 2,131 | 1,936 | 1,716 | -11.4% | -19.5% |
| Dependent | 134,456 | 124,240 | 118,310 | -4.8% | -12.0% |
| Independent | 113,200 | 117,430 | 112,708 | -4.0% | -0.4% |
| With Earnings | 86,308 | 86,249 | 83,452 | -3.2% | -3.3% |

## Youth Allowance (student) Population – Time Series

The total YA(s) population decreased 4.4% compared to June 2014. Changes to make Family Tax Benefit the primary payment for secondary students were introduced on 1 January 2012, causing a decrease in recipient numbers over time. Student payments are seasonal.

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| **Table 2: Youth Allowance (student) Time Series** | |
| **Month and Year** | **Recipients** |
| Jun-05 | 284,287 |
| Jun-06 | 271,408 |
| Jun-07 | 264,008 |
| Jun-08 | 256,634 |
| Jun-09 | 278,664 |
| Jun-10 | 297,023 |
| Jun-11 | 325,224 |
| Jun-12 | 271,472 |
| Jun-13 | 247,656 |
| Jun-14 | 241,670 |
| Jun-15 | 231,018 |

## Youth Allowance (student) Expenditure

Expenditure on YA(s) has remained relatively stable over time. The 2014-15 expenditure on YA(s) was $2.559 billion. Expenditure on YA(s) makes up under 0.2% of Gross Domestic Product (ABS National Accounts).

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| **Table 3: Youth Allowance (student) Expenditure** | | |
| **Financial Year** | **Expenditure ($’000)** | **% of Gross Domestic Product** |
| 2010-11 | 2,555,704 | 0.2% |
| 2011-12 | 2,727,828 | 0.2% |
| 2012-13 | 2,549,257 | 0.2% |
| 2013-14 | 2,613,430 | 0.2% |
| 2014-15 | 2,559,551 | 0.2% |

## Youth Allowance (student) by Age Group

35.4% of YA(s) recipients are aged 15-19 years, while 5.3 % are aged 25 and over. The majority of recipients are aged between 20 and 24, making up 59.3% of the total population. Recipients who were receiving YA(s) immediately prior to turning 25 remain on YA(s) until the end of their course.

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| **Table 4: Youth Allowance (student) by Age Group** | | | | | |
| **Age Group** | **Jun-11** | **Jun-12** | **Jun-13** | **Jun-14** | **Jun-15** |
| 15-19 | 196,905 | 140,449 | 102,278 | 88,404 | 81,691 |
| 20-24 | 119,483 | 121,444 | 134,627 | 141,551 | 137,033 |
| 25+ | 8,836 | 9,579 | 10,751 | 11,715 | 12,294 |

## Youth Allowance (student) by Gender

There are more females than males on YA(s), with 44.1% male and 55.9% female.

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| **Table 5: Youth Allowance (student) by Gender** | | | | | |
| **Gender** | **Jun-11** | **Jun-12** | **Jun-13** | **Jun-14** | **Jun-15** |
| Male | 148,561 | 121,979 | 110,374 | 106,828 | 101,994 |
| Female | 176,663 | 149,493 | 137,282 | 134,842 | 129,024 |

## Youth Allowance (student) by Relationship Status

As at June 2015, 96% of YA(s) recipients were single, the proportion has remained stable over the reporting periods.

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| **Table 6: Youth Allowance (student) by Relationship Status** | | | | | |
| **Relationship Status** | **Jun-11** | **Jun-12** | **Jun-13** | **Jun-14** | **Jun-15** |
| Not Partnered | 317,412 | 263,496 | 238,899 | 232,628 | 222,557 |
| Partnered | 7,812 | 7,976 | 8,757 | 9,042 | 8,461 |

## Youth Allowance (student) by Indigenous Indicator

At June 2015 the Indigenous proportion was 1.1%, the small proportion is due to the majority of Indigenous students being on ABSTUDY, rather than YA(s). Indigenous recipients include only those who have voluntarily identified as Indigenous.

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| **Table 7: Youth Allowance (student) by Indigenous Indicator** | | | | | |
| **Indigenous Indicator** | **Jun-11** | **Jun-12** | **Jun-13** | **Jun-14** | **Jun-15** |
| Non Indigenous | 322,566 | 269,352 | 245,609 | 239,471 | 228,527 |
| Indigenous | 2,658 | 2,120 | 2,047 | 2,199 | 2,491 |
| Percentage | 0.8% | 0.8% | 0.8% | 0.9% | 1.1% |

## Youth Allowance (student) by Rate of Payment

At 72.5% the proportion of recipients on full-rate at June 2015 is comparable with June 2014. Part rate recipients make up a further 24.8%. 'Other' includes those recipients who were yet to be paid.

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| **Table 8: Youth Allowance (student) by Rate of Payment** | | | | | |
| **Rate of Payment** | **Jun-11** | **Jun-12** | **Jun-13** | **Jun-14** | **Jun-15** |
| Full Rate | 242,324 | 194,937 | 181,573 | 175,285 | 167,497 |
| Part Rate | 74,795 | 68,364 | 60,875 | 61,031 | 57,334 |
| Zero Rate | 6,443 | 6,943 | 4,209 | 4,292 | 4,481 |
| Other | 1,662 | 1,228 | 999 | 1,062 | 1,706 |

## Youth Allowance (student) by Earnings

The proportion of recipients reporting earnings has remained relatively stable over time. 36.1% of YA(s) recipients had earnings as at June 2015, up from 35.7% at June 2014.

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| **Table 9: Youth Allowance (student) by Earnings** | | | | | |
| **Reporting Earnings** | **Jun-11** | **Jun-12** | **Jun-13** | **Jun-14** | **Jun-15** |
| Nil Earnings | 224,360 | 185,222 | 161,348 | 155,421 | 147,566 |
| Had Earnings | 100,864 | 86,250 | 86,308 | 86,249 | 83,452 |

## Youth Allowance (student) by Duration on Income Support

As at June 2015, 59.3% of recipients were classified as long-term, the proportion has decreased slightly from 60.3% at June 2014. The higher proportion is expected as educational courses are generally longer than one year.

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| **Table 10: Youth Allowance (student) by Duration on Income Support** | | | | | |
| **Duration** | **Jun-11** | **Jun-12** | **Jun-13** | **Jun-14** | **Jun-15** |
| Less than 1 year | 138,933 | 85,183 | 85,311 | 96,004 | 93,914 |
| 1 year plus | 186,291 | 186,289 | 162,345 | 145,666 | 137,104 |

## Youth Allowance (student) by Remoteness Area

The majority of YA(s) recipients reside in major cities (82.3%). A further 16.9% live in regional areas (outer and inner), while the remaining recipients are in remote or very remote locations.

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| **Table 11: Youth Allowance (student) by Remoteness Area** | | |
| **Remoteness Area** | **Jun-15** | **Percentage** |
| Inner Regional Australia | 30,899 | 13.4% |
| Major Cities of Australia | 190,103 | 82.3% |
| Outer Regional Australia | 8,217 | 3.6% |
| Remote Australia | 442 | 0.2% |
| Very Remote Australia | 86 | 0.0% |
| Not Assigned to a Remoteness Area | 1,271 | 0.6% |

## Youth Allowance (student) by State

The highest proportion of recipients were located in Victoria at 31.4% followed by New South Wales at 31.3% and 18% in Queensland, these proportions are expected due to higher state populations.

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| **Table 12: Youth Allowance (student) by State** | |
| **State** | **Jun-15** |
| New South Wales | 72,197 |
| Victoria | 72,464 |
| Queensland | 41,634 |
| South Australia | 19,416 |
| Western Australia | 15,503 |
| Tasmania | 4,887 |
| Northern Territory | 365 |
| Australian Capital Territory | 4,186 |
| Unknown | 366 |

## Youth Allowance (student) by Sector

Higher Education remains the main level of study for recipients of YA(s), with 77.1% of recipients. A further 14.1% are undertaking Vocational Education and Training.

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| **Table 13: Youth Allowance (student) by Sector of Study** | | |
| **Sector** | **Jun-15** | **Percentage** |
| Higher Education | 178,170 | 77.1% |
| School | 12,992 | 5.6% |
| Vocational Education and Training | 32,564 | 14.1% |
| Apprentice | 5,576 | 2.4% |
| Not Specified | 1,716 | 0.7% |

## Circumstances before and after receiving Youth Allowance (student)

The majority of recipients leaving YA(s) transferred off payments altogether. Recipients who transferred generally transferred to Youth Allowance (other) (13.2%) and Newstart Allowance (8.6%). Recipients moving onto YA(s) generally came onto the payment from outside of Income Support.

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| **Table 14: Circumstances before and after receiving Youth Allowance (student)** | | | | |
| **Circumstance** | **Before YA(s)** | **Before YA(s) Percentage** | **After YA(s)** | **After YA(s) Percentage** |
| Not Receiving Income Support | 90,957 | 88% | 83,933 | 75% |
| Working Age Payment | 11,257 | 11% | 25,757 | 23% |
| Student Payment | 352 | 0% | 1,670 | 1% |
| Other Payment | 320 | 0% | 737 | 1% |

## Circumstances before and after receiving Youth Allowance (apprenctice)

The majority of recipients leaving YA(a) transferred off payments altogether. Recipients who transferred generally transferred to Youth Allowance (other) (9.3%) and Newstart Allowance (4.6%). Recipients moving onto YA(a) generally came onto the payment from outside of Income Support.

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| **Table 15: Circumstances before and after receiving Youth Allowance (apprentice)** | | | | |
| **Circumstance** | **Before YA(a)** | **Before YA(a) Percentage** | **After YA(a)** | **After YA(a) Percentage** |
| Not Receiving Income Support | 2285 | 64% | 4076 | 81% |
| Working Age Payment | 849 | 24% | 750 | 15% |
| Student Payment | 407 | 11% | np | np |
| Other Payment | 20 | 1% | <20 | np |

## Data Descriptions

**Youth Allowance (student and apprentice)** is the major payment for full-time students and apprentices aged under 25 years.

**Recipient Numbers:** Recipients of Youth Allowance (student and apprentice) who are determined to be current (i.e. entitled to be paid) on the Centrelink payment system.

**Report Details:** Payment trends and profiles report - June 2015 - Produced by the Department of Social Services.

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**Source:** Department of Human Services Administrative data (DSS Extracts)

**Data Date:** Data as at the 26th of June 2015.

**Australian National Accounts:** National Income, Expenditure and Product: Table 34 Time Series Spreadsheets (cat. no. 5206.0).

**Australian Bureau of Statistics Census 2011:** Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 Census of Population and Housing, Table Builder, RA by AGE5P - Age in Five Year Groups.

## Glossary

**Age Group:** The age group of the recipient.

**Circumstances after YA(s)/YA(a):** This data compares two points in time, one year apart. 'Not Receiving Income Support' describes those who were in receipt of YA(s)/YA(a) at the first point in time, who were not receiving an income support payment at the second point in time. This data does not take into account Family Tax Benefit.

**Circumstances before YA(s)/YA(a):** This data compares two points in time, one year apart. 'Not Receiving Income Support' describes those who were not in receipt of an income support payment at the first point in time, who were receiving YA(s)/YA(a) at the second point in time. This data does not take into account Family Tax Benefit.

**Dependent:** Recipients are classified as dependent for the purposes of the Social Security Act if they do not meet independence reasons.

**Duration:** Duration refers to duration on Income Support and may not reflect duration on current payment type.

**Earnings:** Earnings refers to employment earnings reported in the last fortnight of the reported period.

**Expenditure:** Expenditure amount, as reported in the Department's Annual Report. '% of GDP' is the expenditure on the payment as a percentage of Australia's Gross Domestic Product (ABS data - see data source above).

**Independent:** Recipients who are classified as independent for the purposes of the Social Security Act, reasons include evidence of self-support through employment, member of a couple, have a dependent child, unable to live at home or be supported by parents/guardians, over 18 and educationally disadvantaged, or have a partial capacity to work.

**Indigenous:** Indigenous recipients include only those who have voluntarily identified as Indigenous. This data may therefore represent an undercount.

**Remoteness Area:** Remoteness Areas are based on the recipient's geo-coded address against the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) 2011.

**Rate:** The rate of the recipients payment ('other' include those recipients who, as at the data date, were yet to be paid).

**Relationship Status:** Partnered includes recipients who are married, de-facto or registered.

**Sector:** The type of educational institution the student is enrolled in. Unspecified occurs where there is no current educational institution recorded, these figures are generally higher between semesters of study.

**State:** The State or Territory recorded in the recipient's address.

## Further Information

The Department of Social Services publishes statistics about the various pensions, benefits and family payments which the Department administers, on a quarterly basis on the Australian Government’s centralised data publishing site, [data.gov.au](http://www.data.gov.au/organization/about/department-of-social-services) (http://www.data.gov.au/organization/about/department-of-social-services). A statistical overview is published on an annual basis on the Department’s website, [DSS - Statistical Paper Series](http://www.dss.gov.au/about-the-department/publications-articles/research-publications/statistical-paper-series) (http://www.dss.gov.au/about-the-department/publications-articles/research-publications/statistical-paper-series).

For enquiries email:[IncomeSupportInformation@dss.gov.au](mailto:IncomeSupportInformation@dss.gov.au?subject=Labour%20Market%20and%20Related%20Payments%20publication)