

You may be aware that legislation enabling a number of changes to Youth Allowance and other student payments was passed by parliament in March 2010.

While the changes are mostly targeted at university students, there are also impacts on other customers, including TAFE and secondary students. The first of these changes, including the initial reduction of the age of independence and the payment of the new Student Start-up Scholarship and Relocation Scholarship, commenced on 1 April 2010. Further changes will be implemented in July this year.

I would like to invite you to an information session to find out more about these changes and to discuss how they are being delivered by Centrelink.

We have scheduled information sessions in Melbourne, Canberra and Sydney, rather than asking everyone to travel to Canberra for the day. The details about each session are outlined below.

Melbourne

When: 11 May 2010, 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Where: Level 15, 595 Collins St, Melbourne VIC

Australian Parents' Council
National Union of Students
Student Financial Advisors' Network

Canberra

When: 13 May 2010, 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Where: Caroline Chisholm Centre, 57 Athllon Drive, Greenway ACT

Australian Council for Private Education and Training
Australian Council of State School Organisations
Australian Secondary Principals' Association
Independent Schools Council of Australia
National Catholic Education Commission
TAFE Directors Australia
Universities Australia

Sydney

When: 14 May 2010, 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Where: Level 28, Sydney Central Building, 477 Pitt St, Sydney NSW

Australian Youth Affairs Coalition
Isolated Children's Parents' Association
Indigenous Higher Education Advisory Council
National Welfare Rights Network

Members of our Project Team will attend each information session to talk through each of the changes and answer any questions you may have. In particular, we will be discussing:

- the new Student Start-up Scholarship and Relocation Scholarship
- changes to the Parental Income Test calculation from 1 July 2010
- new arrangements for self-supporting independence (also known as the 'workforce participation' or 'gap year' rules), and
- Centrelink's communication strategy and products.

Please advise whether you will be able to attend by 23 April 2010. You can do this by emailing matthew.p.barden@centrelink.gov.au or calling (02) 6155 1812. If you would like to attend a different session or nominate someone to attend in your place this can also be arranged.

Kind regards,

Matt Barden

on behalf of

Kate Hay
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Centrelink