

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015

Outcome: Higher Education Research and International

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000201

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing.

Undergraduate enrolment trends

Question

"Back in October, Dr Taylor said that he would be in a position to have an informed discussion about undergraduate enrolment trends "in a month's time".
Can you provide the Committee with definitive data about these trends now?
Can you provide us with information about trends in direct applications to universities? Have universities reported to you about these trends? I'm particularly interested in these trends among mature-age students, especially those at regional universities.
What projections have you made about future demand in a demand-driven system? Can you provide the Committee with projections for the next 10 years, and the assumptions that underlie them?
How do trends in applications line up against the number of Year 12 students – the pool of potential school-leaver applicants? What projections do you have about the trend in those numbers in coming years – say, in the next 10 years?"

Answer

- As at 27 February 2015, 314,198 applicants had applied for a university place, either through a Tertiary Admissions Centre (TAC) (excluding WA) or directly to a university (including WA). This is 1.0% above the number of applicants as at May 2014. Direct applications to universities increased by 6.8 per cent between May 2014 and February 2015.
- The number of applications (TAC and direct) from non-Year 12 applicants increased by 0.2 per cent between May 2014 and February 2015.
- The proportion of direct applicants to Regional Universities Network (RUN) that are mature aged increased from 98.5 per cent in 2014 to 98.8 per cent in 2015. [Data not yet published.]
- The forward estimates for numbers of domestic enrolments, full-time equivalent, are as follows [from not yet published 2015–16 Portfolio Budget Statement]:

2014–15 Revised Budget	2015–16 Budget	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19
721,200	740,000	808,000	835,000	859,000

- Data from the ABS Schools collection, 4221.0, shows that in 2014 there were a total of 226,800 Year 12 students in Australia, a decrease of 1.7 per cent from 2013. Excluding Western Australia, there were 210,546 Year 12 students in 2014, an increase of 2.0 per cent from 2013. Note that in 2015, only 40.3 per cent of applicants for a university place were Year 12 applicants.
- The department projects the number of full-time Year 12 enrolments as part of its enrolment projections for full-time enrolments in Australian schools. These projections are generated using a grade progression methodology and do not take into account changes in education, economic or immigration policies.

Year 12 Full-Time Enrolment Projections: 2014 - 2025

Year	Full-time enrolments
2014*	220,116
2015	229,000
2016	231,000
2017	234,000
2018	232,000
2019	215,000
2020	232,000
2021	237,000
2022	241,000
2023	252,000
2024	262,000
2025	268,000

**Actual as published in Schools Australia, 2014*