

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2008-09**

**Outcome/Agency**            **3**

**DEEWR Question No.**    **EW1133\_09**

Senator Colbeck asked on 25 February, EEWWR Hansard page 91/92.

**Question**

*Tertiary Deferment Rates*

- (a) You would be aware of some information that came out during January about the deferment rate for country students being at three times the rate of city students. Are there any plans to combat this level of deferment rate?
- (b) Do you have any information with respect to the deferment rates and the impact on deferees not taking up study at all? You will have a higher proportion of students coming from regional areas that defer, and then a percentage of those who do not come back to study at all.

**Answer**

- (a) There are currently no published national figures on deferment.
- (b) *Deferring a University Offer in Regional Victoria (Interim report)*, published by the Youth Affairs Council of Victoria in September 2008, examines deferment rates in regional areas in Victoria.

Deferment rates in the *Interim report* were 2.5 times higher for Victorian school completers from regional areas than for those from metropolitan areas. Data in the *Interim report* shows that in 2007, 15.7% of regional Victorian school completers deferred a place at university. In comparison, the rate of deferral for metropolitan students was 6.4%.

One of the main findings of the *Interim report* is that 70% of students who deferred study in 2007 had subsequently taken up a place at university in 2008.

Data from the *Interim Report* are derived from the *Longitudinal On Track* series, published by the Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood, which follows Victorian school completers from the 2006 Year 12 cohort. The 2005 *Longitudinal On Track* report, which follows Victorian school completers from the 2003 Year 12 cohort, found that deferrers from country Victoria were more likely than those from Melbourne to take up their deferred study. Nearly 68% of regional deferrers entered university study in 2005, compared to only 59% of deferrers from the metropolitan area.