

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace  
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

**Outcome 3 - Higher Education**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0430\_12**

**Senator Mason asked on 1/06/2011, Hansard page 73.**

**Question**

**Number of Uni Students In 2025**

Senator MASON: So I just want to make this very clear. In 2025, assuming we get to 40 per cent, how many students will be on Australian university campuses?

Ms Paul: All up, yes. We are not sure we have got that with us.

Senator MASON: But it is a really important figure.

Ms Paul: We can get it for you. We may just not have— Mr Hazlehurst: We do not have it here, but we can get it for you.

**Answer**

In the 2009-10 Budget, in response to the Bradley *Review of Australian Higher Education*, the Australian Government announced its ambition for growth in higher education attainment, so that by 2025, 40 per cent of all 25 to 34 year olds will hold a qualification at bachelor level or above. As the target is directly related to the number of people with a bachelor degree, modelling has been undertaken to estimate the number of domestic bachelor students required at Australian universities to achieve the target.

To reach the 40 per cent attainment ambition, DEEWR projections suggest the total number of domestic bachelor places (EFTSL) offered in Australian universities would be required to increase by 24.4 per cent, from an estimated 505 000 places in 2011 to 628 000 places in 2025. Based on universities' estimates of enrolments to 2015, the level of growth required to meet the 40 per cent target from 2016 is 1.8 per cent per annum. This is below the long term average growth over the 1991 to 2007 period of 2.3 per cent per annum and more recent growth of 4.2 per cent per annum over the 2007 to 2011 period.