

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

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

**Outcome 3 - Higher Education**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0432\_12**

**Senator Mason asked on 1/06/2011, Hansard page 74.**

**Question**

**Additional Low-SES Students**

Senator MASON: ...In terms of the additional low-SES students, which is an important target for the government, what are the projections about where those students will be coming from? Do we have any projections there?

Ms Paul: In terms of demographics—geography?

Senator MASON: Yes.

Ms Paul: I do not know, actually. We will have a think about it.

**Answer**

The department has not made projections of where the low SES students contributing to the enrolment target will come from. It is up to universities, as autonomous institutions, to determine their low SES and student catchment priorities. The Government is implementing funding programs to encourage universities to increase low SES student enrolments.

The Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program (HEPPP) and Performance Funding encourages universities to increase participation of students from low SES backgrounds. HEPPP supports universities to contribute to the Government ambition that 20 percent of domestic undergraduate students come from a low socio-economic (SES) background by 2020. HEPPP provides funding to universities to support low SES students and to work in partnership with schools, VET providers, community groups and State/Territory governments to improve aspiration and access to higher education.