



Indigenous Boarding Snapshot

Boarding Australia was recently provided with data regarding ABSTUDY recipients across Australia. This information was requested in order to try and provide a profile of Indigenous boarding in Australia. ABSTUDY data are a rich resource when it comes to knowing how many students are receiving ABSTUDY assistance (including for boarding), where they are from and where they go to attend school.

BA was not provided any information that could identify individual students or communities. Over time, we hope to develop a more locally sensitive profile of ABSTUDY recipients, but for now, some very interesting facts have come to light.

We present some of the summary findings below, based on data from 26 June 2015¹:

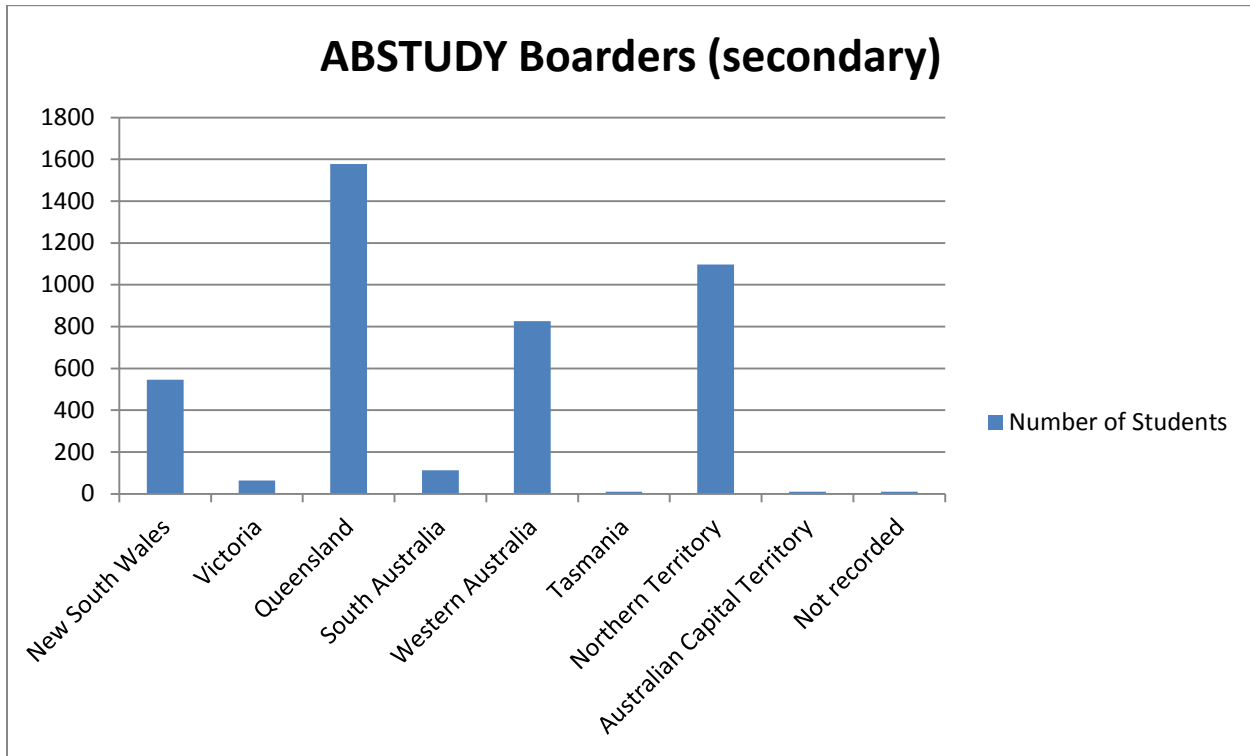
- At the end of June 2015, there were 33,483 total ABSTUDY recipients in **secondary and tertiary** education across Australia.
- Almost 5,300 ABSTUDY individual recipients received boarding payments.
- Of these, 4249 were secondary boarding students.
- On this basis (and taking into account the number of Indigenous boarding students not receiving ABSTUDY), we estimate that Indigenous students represent approximately one quarter of all Australian secondary boarding students.
- On a state-by-state basis, the total number of ABSTUDY recipients and the number of secondary students receiving ABSTUDY boarding payments are:

| State/Territory | Total ABSTUDY Recipients | No. of Secondary Students |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| New South Wales | 10766 | 546 |
| Victoria | 2061 | 64 |
| Queensland | 10364 | 1578 |
| South Australia | 1729 | 113 |
| Western Australia | 4133 | 826 |
| Tasmania | 814 | <20 |
| Northern Territory | 3357 | 1097 |
| Australian Capital Territory | 221 | <20 |
| Not recorded | 38 | <20 |
| Total | 33483 | 4249 |

¹ NB Number of individual recipients subject to change between terms and school years



The distribution of ABSTUDY supported secondary boarders across the country is clearly illustrated below. More than 82% of the nation's ABSTUDY supported high school boarders come from Queensland, Northern Territory and Western Australia.





Out of State Boarding

We were interested to find out how many secondary students boarded away from their home state. Data indicate that 589 secondary ABSTUDY recipients are boarding outside of their home state, with the following cross-border profile (home state and number of students boarding outside of state): NSW 71; Vic <20; Qld 34; SA <20; WA 110; NT 349.

