

Senate Standing Committees on Education and Employment

Higher Education Support Amendment (Response to the Australian Universities Accord Interim Report) Bill 2023

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Date of hearing: 01 September 2023

Professor Mary O'Kane

Question No. IQ23-000061

Senator Sarah Henderson on 01 September 2023, Proof Hansard page 43

Data

Question

Senator HENDERSON: Could I ask you to take on notice the data that you did rely on to make this recommendation?

Prof. O'Kane: Yes, and I'll have to get that from the department.

Senator HENDERSON: Yes. Could you also take on notice your methodology and how you interrogated the data?

Prof. O'Kane: Yes, but it will be very much as I said. Thinking back over a very big review, it was very much looking at what we were able to get from UA, what we were able to get from Western Sydney and the material in the submissions.

Answer

The department's Australian Universities Accord Panel secretariat (the secretariat) has provided me the following response:

As noted on Hansard, the Australian Universities Accord Panel (the panel) heard extensively through stakeholder consultations and submissions the 50% pass rule, as applied under the Job-ready Graduates package, was a source of concern and a matter for urgent consideration by the Panel.

The panel requested the secretariat source data on this issue. The department approached Universities Australia to provide data from their members on the number and cohorts of students most affected by the 50% pass rule. Universities Australia provided this data in confidence requesting it not be shared beyond the panel and secretariat, noting it was preliminary and indicative only. Questions on this detailed data should be directed to Universities Australia.