

Questions on notice (*updated*):

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

15 September 2023

The following are **updated answers** to questions on notice sent to Professor Harlene Hayne CNZM, ATN Chair, as part of the Education and Employment Legislation Committee's inquiry into the Higher Education Support Amendment (Response to the Australian Universities Accord Interim Report) Bill 2023 on 5 September 2023.

Note, this updated response includes additional information which was possible with additional time allocated by the Committee (from previous response on 8 September 2023).

Uncapping Indigenous CSP

a) For the 2022 calendar year, please provide:

- the number of applications you have received from Indigenous students at each of your member universities;
- the offers made to Indigenous students at each of your member universities; and
- the number of acceptances by Indigenous students.

b) Please provide the data above broken down by metropolitan, regional, rural and remote students for each university

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ATN's response

Curtin University

2022 Indigenous Admissions	Applications*	Offers	Acceptances
Total	597	209	161
Metro	383	153	122
Inner Regional	132	32	24
Outer Regional	54	15	12
Remote	2	1	1
Very Remote	7	3	1
Unknown	19	5	1

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Deakin University

2022 Indigenous Admissions	Applications*	Offers	Acceptances
Total	448	352	298
Metro	246	186	158
Regional	183	150	126
Remote	18	15	13
Unknown	1	1	1

RMIT University

Indigenous Enrolments (EFTSL)	2022	2023
Total	119.9	99.3
Metro	83.8	68.8
Regional & Remote	36.1	30.5

University of Newcastle

2022 Indigenous Admissions	Distinct Students	Applications*	Offers	Acceptances
Total	848	1049	1045	846
Metro	577	718	715	614
Regional	262	322	321	228
Remote	8	8	8	3
Unknown	1	1	1	1

University of South Australia

2022 Indigenous Admissions	Applications*	Offers	Acceptances
Total	383	195	162
Metro	220	114	95
Regional	59	36	32
Rural	76	35	26
Remote	28	10	9

Further data will be provided as it becomes available.

Commonwealth Supported Places

a) For each of your member universities, please advise the number of Commonwealth Supported Places allocated to each university for the 2022 calendar year.

b) For each of your member universities, please advise how many of the allocated Commonwealth Supported Places were filled for the 2022 calendar year.

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ATN's response

Only Commonwealth Supported Places in medical programs are allocated by number of places. For other CSPs, universities are allocated a Maximum Basic Grant Amount that is specified in their funding agreement:

- Curtin: \$246,925,366
- Deakin: \$260,810,916
- RMIT: \$257,940,354
- Newcastle: \$209,978,264
- UTS: \$204,480,058
- UniSA: \$194,961,064

Uncapping Indigenous CSP

a) Have you received advice from the Department of Education on how funding for each of your member universities will be adjusted for the demand driven Indigenous places?

b) If so, please provide a copy of the advice received.

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ATN's response

ATN has not received any advice from the Department.

50 per cent pass rule

a) Please provide, for each of your member universities by university, the data for the number of students impacted by the 50 per cent pass rule in the calendar year 2022.

b) Please provide, for each of your member universities by university, the data for the number of students impacted by the 50 per cent pass rule that applied for an exemption. Please break the data down by category for which the exemption was applied.

c) Please provide, for each of your member universities by university, the data for the number of students impacted by the 50 per cent pass rule that were granted an exemption. Please break the data down by category in which the exemption was granted.

d) Please provide, for each of your member universities by university, the data for the number of students impacted by the 50 per cent pass rule that applied for an exemption which were not granted. Please break the data down by category for which the exemption was applied.

e) Please provide, for each of your member universities by university, the data for the number of students impacted by the 50 per cent pass rule that applied for an exemption which were not granted and a description of their equity cohort, if applicable (ie. rural/regional, low SES, first in family, Indigenous)

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ATN's response

Curtin University

	2022	2023
Total number of students affected by 50 per cent pass rate rule	1,213	249
- Indigenous	14	1
- Regional and remote	131	37
- Low SES	166	95
Total number of students who applied for an exemption	223	317
Total number of students who were granted an exemption	109	112

Note: Commonwealth Supported students from Curtin and OUA courses, including sub-bachelor and bachelor courses.

Deakin University

	2022	2023
Total number of students affected by 50 per cent pass rate rule	263	379
- Indigenous	4	4
- Regional and remote	69	111
- Low SES	25	50
Total number of students who applied for an exemption	16	47
Total number of students who were granted an exemption	5	10

RMIT University

	2022	2023
Total number of students affected by 50 per cent pass rate rule	443	285
- Indigenous	1	1
- Regional and remote	33	19
- Low SES	77	63
Total number of students who applied for an exemption*	0	0
Total number of students who were granted an exemption*	0	0

*RMIT did not have an LCR exemption process

University of Newcastle

	2022	2023
Total number of students affected by 50 per cent pass rate rule	549	486
- Indigenous	70	43
- Regional and remote	109	71
- Low SES	168	115
Total number of students who applied for an exemption	0	0
Total number of students who were granted an exemption	0	0

University of South Australia

	2022	2023
Total number of students affected by 50 per cent pass rate rule	196	178
- Indigenous	3	8
- Regional and remote	25	22
- Low SES	56	48
Total number of students who applied for an exemption	79	83
Total number of students who were granted an exemption	25	44

University of Technology Sydney

	2022	2023
Total number of students affected by 50 per cent pass rate rule	73	90
- Indigenous	1	4
- Regional and remote	1	0
- Low SES	14	11
Total number of students who applied for an exemption	3	22
Total number of students who were granted an exemption	1	10

50 per cent pass rule

a) What is the process at each of your member universities for when a student is flagged as potentially at risk of failing 50% of their course?

- Is this different for each university? Please describe or provide the policy for each university.
- What student support policies are in place to correct a student's performance academically to reduce their risk of failing?
- Do you have data on how many students impacted by the 50 per cent rule left the system or chose to continue with their studies as full fee paying students? If so, please provide broken down by each university.

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ATN's response

All ATN universities have policies and procedures in place (listed below) to ensure that students are making satisfactory progress in their courses and enable appropriate intervention if they are not.

- Curtin University: [Assessment and Student Progression Manual](#)
- Deakin University: [Academic Progress Policy](#)
- RMIT University: [Assessment, Academic Progress and Appeals Regulations](#)
- The University of Newcastle: [Student Academic Progress Procedure](#)
- University of South Australia: [Academic Review Procedure](#)
- University of Technology Sydney: [Student Rules – Academic progression](#)

Students also have access to a range of academic and non-academic services to support their participation in university, including study skills assistance, financial counselling, mental health support and accommodation assistance.

Student Support Policy

a) The Department of Education has released a consultation paper to develop a student support policy. Did the Department or the minister's office consult with the Australian Technology Network of Universities (ATN) or any of your member universities in developing this paper?

b) If so, please advise the date the ATN or any of your member universities were consulted.

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ATN's response

ATN was not consulted in the development of the consultation paper.

Student Support Policy

a) In terms of student satisfaction with teaching and course quality, do you support a student ombudsman being put in place as a mechanism for students to escalate complaints if they are unsatisfied with the response provided by the university processes?

b) There has been significant discussion publicly recently about student safety on campus in relation to sexual assault and harassment. How are ATN and your member universities managing this?

c) Have you consulted with Fair Agenda and End Rape on Campus on your management strategies?

d) Is ATN supportive of legislation governing the student support policy being passed before the policy is actually developed?

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ATN's response

a) ATN has not had an opportunity to consider this proposal or any specific details, so we do not have a collective response at this time.

b) Every ATN university has a page on their website outlining the supports, the prevention mechanisms, what happens if you have a complaint and how your academic activity can be supported if you have been the victim of a sexual assault.

We have to recognise that we are part of a larger societal problem. We would welcome all of society working with us to address this problem, from the compulsory school system through to universities through to industry. This problem does not originate in universities, and it does not end in universities.

While this is a societal issue, ATN universities accept their responsibility to provide safe environments within their institutions. As public institutions, we can lead and take the steps necessary to ensure, as best we can, that sexual harm does not occur on our campuses.

ATN supports concrete evidence-based interventions which can be enacted and translated into best practice to produce better outcomes for our students. We need to give our students the support, knowledge and skills to respond to unacceptable behaviour, to promote acceptable and educated behaviour and to overcome the ignorance which drives unacceptable behaviour.

c) That is a matter best directed to individual universities.

d) It is common practice for the passage of legislation to precede the publication of guidelines. ATN always welcomes the opportunity to participate in consultations and contribute to the development of legislation and policy.

Legislation

Please provide a copy of any correspondence the ATN, or any of your member universities, have sent to or received from Minister Clare, his office or the Department of Education in relation to the Higher Education Support Amendment (Response to the Australian Universities Accord Interim Report) Bill 2023 (the Bill) or any of the individual elements contained within the Bill. This includes informal correspondence such as emails and whatsapp messages.

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ATN's response

ATN has not exchanged any correspondence with Minister Clare, his office or the Department of Education related to Bill.