

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015**

Outcome: Higher Education Research and International

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000029

Senator Carr, Kim asked on 25 February 2015, Hansard page 81

Teacher Education – ATAR Bonus Schemes

Question

Ms Paul: I understand what you are saying. What we are trying to say is that, for the statistic we understand to be the proportion of students from whatever backgrounds going into teacher training, only 20 per cent of them are selected on the basis of the ATAR.

Senator CARR: I understand that. But does your agency have any indication of what – I am referring to it as special consideration – additional scores are given for..... What is the maximum percentage of special consideration that is given to those ATAR scores? Do you know that?

Answer

State based Tertiary Admission Centres (TACs) are responsible for the calculation of information concerning Australian Tertiary Admission Ranks (ATARs). Universities within each state or territory specify course entry requirements and ATAR bonus points. Bonus points are offered for a variety of reasons and these vary by institution.

The Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency requires institutions to ensure that their admissions criteria are appropriate for the course of study, take account of external benchmarks, and ensure that students have adequate prior knowledge and skills to successfully undertake the course of study.