

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome: Agency: AITSL

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000754

Senator O'Neill, Deborah asked on 10 February 2016, Proof Hansard page 45

AITSL: screening candidates

Question

Senator O'NEILL: Could you give me an indication, Mrs Evans, of how many institutions undertake entrance interviews or other more complex ways of screening candidates? Because this has become a live conversation.

Mrs Evans-McCall: It has indeed. We do not have the exact figures on that. What we do have—because there has been a survey undertaken by the deans of education themselves about that—are some indicative figures, which I am happy to provide you. I could take that on notice. What we do know is that interviews are often undertaken with more marginal groups or groups where decisions are not clear-cut. Some universities do it as a matter of course, some universities do not do it at all, and some do it with specific and particular groups. They are pretty high-level figures but we certainly do have some of those available from about 2013 when, I think, that survey was done.

Answer

The Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership has provided the following response.

Details of the 2013 survey conducted by Universities Australia on the approaches to selection across universities is available in the 2014 Initial teacher education data report (p. 35) <http://www.aitsl.edu.au/docs/default-source/initial-teacher-education-resources/ite-data-report-2014-chapters-1-4.pdf>

A copy of this information is replicated below.

Table 16: Summary of selection mechanisms used in Australian initial teacher education programs, 2013

Proportion of Student Applications	Number of Responding Providers						
	Bonus Point Systems	Essays or personal statements	Prior (non-teaching-related experience)	Interviews	Prior teaching-related experience	Psychometric Assessments	Written Applications
Not used for any students	11	12	7	19	11	36	14
Used for a minority of students	21	21	27	18	25	2	21
Used for a majority of students	7	3	4	0	2	1	0
Used for all students	0	3	1	2	1	0	4

Source: Universities Australia Survey on Initial Teacher Education Selection Methods, Universities Australia 2013.