

## Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2014-2015

#### Outcome 3 - Higher Education, Research & International

#### Department of Education Question No. ED0358\_15

Senator McKenzie asked on 5 June 2014 , Hansard page 49

#### Question

#### Demographics of students attending regional universities

Senator McKENZIE: I want to clarify something, going to that point of the homogeneity. I will go back a bit. In terms of the demographics of those students attending regional universities, they are more likely to come from the regions themselves? Mr Griew: Yes. That would be right, yes. Senator McKENZIE: And lower SES, typically, than those attending urban or GO8 universities? Mr Griew: By proportion that would be the case, yes. Senator McKENZIE: By proportion is probably the way to measure it. Mr Griew: I can take on notice to give you the evidence we have on that. Senator McKENZIE: That would be great. As a proportion would be great. Compare the cohort of students attending regional universities against the cohort of students attending GO8s. We had some description earlier of the students being typified as the sons and daughters of judges. Somebody made that comment before.

#### Answer

The proportion of students with a low SES background attending regional universities was 28.2 per cent in 2013 compared to 9.6 per cent at the Group of Eight universities. In the same year, more than half of all students studying in the regional universities were from regional areas (50.9%), compared with 11.1 per cent in the Group of Eight universities.

Table 1: Number of onshore domestic students by Regional and Low SES status for Group of 8 and Regional universities, 2013

	Total students	Low SES		Regional and Remote	
		Students	Percent	Students	Percent
Group of 8	248,529	23,763	9.6	27,527	11.1
Regional Universities	115,858	32,648	28.2	58,987	50.9
Other providers	542,147	92,008	17.0	103,557	19.1

#### NOTES:

(a) Excludes students where permanent home address is overseas.

(b) Low SES postcode measure is based on the students' postcode of permanent home residence, with the SES value derived from the 2011 SEIFA Education and Occupation Index for postal areas, where postal areas in the bottom 25% of the population aged 15-64 being classified as Low SES.

(c) Regional and Remote category is derived from ASGS classifications