

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome: Higher Education Research and International

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000482

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing.

Year 12 applications

Question

The department has released figures detailing offers and applications made for academic year 2015. This (p.4) tells us that, overall and excluding WA, there was a decrease in applications through TACs of 0.2% - can you confirm that?

And can you confirm that, excluding WA, Year 12 applications – either through TACs or not through TACs - increased by 1.3%; and non-Year 12 applications fell by 1.9%? Does that small increase reflect population trends for that age group, or does it exceed population growth?

Most notably, applications by non-Year 12 applicants fell significantly – didn't they? For example, in NSW they fell by 6%. In WA they fell by over 14%. Can you confirm that? These trends were offset by growth in applications where participation has historically been very low – such as Tasmania and the NT. That's true, isn't it?

Offers were down 1.0% on last year. Can you confirm that?

And offers to non-Year 12 applicants fell by 3.0% nationally, excluding WA, didn't they?

Offers to Year 12 applicants grew by just 0.6% nationally (excluding WA), didn't they?

Does the Government still contend that, in a system with enrolment caps removed, growth in places offered will be uncontrollable? Aren't they stabilising?

Answer

- Yes, but when you take account of applications processed directly through universities there was an increase of 1.0% in the academic year 2015.
- No. As at February 2015, Year 12 applications processed through TACs and directly through universities have increased by 1.9 per cent and non-year 12 applications have increased by 0.4 per cent.
- No. The number of 17-18 year-olds, the feeder group for Year 12 applications, decreased by 0.2 per cent between June 2013 and June 2014.
- Direct applications have increased by 6.8 per cent. More than 96 per cent of direct applications are made by non-Year 12 applicants.
- No. In 2015, offers (both through TACs and direct) increased by 0.9 per cent on 2014 and in 2014 the increase was 2.0 per cent on 2013, indicating offers are stabilising.