

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. SQ15-000483

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing.

Low-SES student applications

Question

Low-SES student applications have gone up this year by 0.5%, while those from high-SES applicants have gone down by 1.0%, haven't they? And offers to low-SES applicants fell less than medium or high-SES applicants – by 0.2%. Is that correct?

But low-SES applicants were less likely to receive an offer (79.9%) compared to high-SES applicants (82.8%) – is that right?

So low-SRS applicants are still disadvantaged, aren't they?

Answer

- Excluding WA, as at February 2015, applications from low SES applicants have increased by 0.5 per cent, while those from high-SES applicants have gone down by 1.0 per cent, compared with the same time last year.
- Offers to applicants from a low SES background (excluding WA) have shown the smallest decrease (-0.2 per cent) compared with offers to applicants from a medium SES background (-0.7 per cent) and a high SES background (-1.9 per cent).
- In February 2015, applicants from a low SES background had a lower offer rate in comparison with applicants from a high SES background, being 79.9 per cent and 82.8 per cent respectively.
- Participation of domestic undergraduate students from a low SES background has increased from 16.2 per cent in 2009 to 17.3 per cent in 2013.