

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. SQ15-000485

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing.

Indigenous applications

Question

Were Indigenous applicants substantially less likely to receive an offer than non-Indigenous applicants? Has that offer rate for Indigenous students has fallen on last year's figure? Did it fall more than that for non-Indigenous applicants?
Is this a longer-term trend? How does the Government propose to address this problem?

Answer

As at February 2015, excluding WA, offer rates for Indigenous and non-Indigenous applicants were 74.4 per cent and 81.4 per cent respectively.

The offer rate for Indigenous applicants has fallen 1.0 percentage point to 74.4 per cent while the offer rate for non-Indigenous applicants has fallen 0.6 percentage points to 81.4 per cent between February 2014 and February 2015.

Between 2010 and 2014, the offer rate for Indigenous applicants increased by 6.0 percentage points while the offer rate for non-Indigenous applicants increased by 5.3 percentage points, as shown by Table 1.

Table 1: Offer rates by indigenous status, 2010-2014 (final round)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Change 2010-2014
Indigenous	69.2%	75.3%	75.4%	76.0%	75.2%	6.0 p.p
Non-Indigenous	76.8%	79.1%	81.5%	81.6%	82.1%	5.3 p.p

Since 2009, following the introduction of the Demand Driven System, Indigenous applications have increased by 56.0 per cent to 2014 in comparison with the 10.2 per cent increase in total applications. Offers to Indigenous applicants have increased by 64.5 per cent over the same period in comparison to the 19.0 per cent increase in total offers.