

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014-2015

Outcome 3 - Higher Education, Reform & Support

Department of Education Question No. ED0711\_15

Senator Carr asked on 14 November 2014 , Hansard page 37

Question

*Sub-bachelor places*

Senator KIM CARR: In regard to the sub-bachelor places, what are the assumptions that underpin the number that you have chosen? Mr Griew: Again, I think we provided this previously. We assume that existing higher education sub-bachelor places come into the system and then we make an assumption about growth. We will take it on notice; we can give you those figures. There is a percentage for growth  
Senator KIM CARR: Sure. And then would you do the same for the FTE places—the full-time equivalent— Mr Griew: Yes, we can do that as a factor.

Answer

According to the Department's statistics, in 2013 there were 50,845 domestic full-fee paying undergraduate students at Australian higher education institutions. Of these, 40,384 were in bachelor degree courses and 10,461 were in sub-bachelor (diploma, advanced diploma and associate degree) courses.

Additional sub-bachelor students

To estimate the number of additional sub-bachelor places that will be supported by the Commonwealth following implementation of the reforms, the Government assumed that the number of domestic full-fee paying sub-bachelor places in 2012 would grow by 3 per cent per year between 2012 and 2015. From 2016 onwards it was assumed that these places would grow at the same rate as overall university estimates for Commonwealth supported places i.e. between 2 and 3 per cent, plus an additional 7,800 places per year to account for growth in the system.

The estimated number of places was then multiplied by the 2012 ratio of domestic sub-bachelor students to places (1.48 to 1) to determine an estimate of the number of additional Commonwealth supported sub-bachelor *students* in 2016 onwards.

The following tables set out the estimated number of additional sub-bachelor places and students in 2016 to 2018.

Estimated additional Commonwealth supported places

	2016	2017	2018
Additional sub-bachelor <u>places</u> due to expansion	16,000	24,200	32,500

Estimated additional Commonwealth supported students

	2016	2017	2018
Additional sub-bachelor <u>students</u> due to expansion	23,600	35,800	48,100