

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2013-2014**

Outcome 3 - Higher Education, Research & International

Department of Education Question No. ED0474_14

Senator Carr asked on 26 February 2014 , Hansard page 135

Question

International Education

Senator KIM CARR: What are you going to say to me? 'I'm not doing any work on the area'? It is not an issue. If it subsequently turns out that it is announced as a government decision, we will talk about it then. That is what you have said to me. I will ask about the international education program. Can you provide the committee with an update of the latest statistics in relation to the recovery of international student numbers? Is there a document I could have that tells me the latest figures?
Ms Baly: Yes. There is a document that is up on our website and that provides you with the latest statistics in relation to student numbers.

Answer

The latest available data on enrolments by full-fee paying international students studying in Australia on a student visa is for the 2013 calendar year and is available as a one page summary (attached). This document is publicly available at: <https://aei.gov.au/research/international-student-data/pages/default.aspx>.



End of Year Summary of International Student Enrolment Data¹ – Australia – 2013

In 2013, there were 526,932 enrolments by full-fee paying international students in Australia on a student visa. This represents a 2.6% increase on 2012 and compares with the average annual growth rate for enrolments of 5.9% per year over the preceding ten years.

There were 302,976 commencements in 2013, representing a 9.3% increase over 2012. This compares with the average annual growth rate for commencements of 5.4% per year over the preceding ten years.

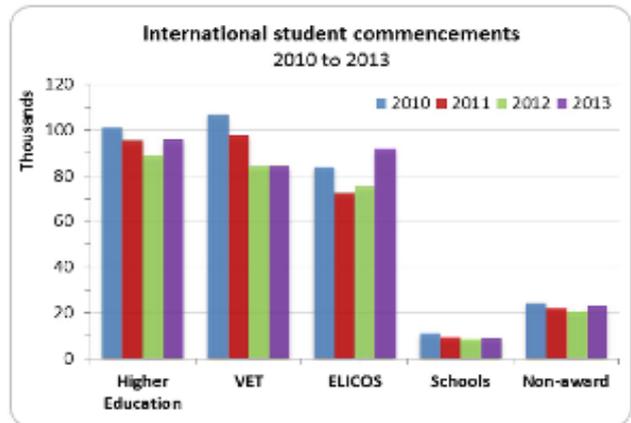
The largest volume of enrolments and volume of commencements in 2013 were in higher education (43.9% and 31.6% respectively). Enrolments increased slightly by 0.4% on 2012 figures and commencements increased by 8.1% in the same period. China and India accounted for 39.9% and 7.2% respectively of enrolments by students in higher education. Post-graduate research commencements in higher education increased slightly by 0.2% and other post-graduate commencements grew by 19.4%. Commencements at bachelor degree level declined by 3.5% over the same period.

Vocational Education and Training (VET) accounted for 25.6% of total enrolments and 27.7% of total commencements. Enrolments and commencements in VET declined by 6.4% and 0.1% respectively on 2012. India had the largest share of total enrolments (21.5%) and of total commencements (17.6%). China accounted for the next largest share of enrolments with 10.5%, followed by the Republic of Korea (7.3%) and Thailand (6.6%).

English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students (ELICOS) accounted for 21.7% of total enrolments and 30.2% of total commencements. Enrolments and commencements in ELICOS grew by 20.1% and 21.0% respectively on 2012. China accounted for 25.0% of enrolments and 23.8% of commencements in ELICOS, more than any other nationality. Brazil was the second largest nationality for enrolments (8.7%) and commencements (9.1%), followed by Thailand (7.9% of enrolments and 8.0% of commencements). While over 90% of ELICOS students from China went on to do further study in Australia in 2012, less than a third of students from Brazil and about half of students from Thailand did.

In 2013, schools accounted for 3.4% of total enrolments and 2.9% of total commencements. Enrolments in schools declined by 3.8% on 2012 figures. By nationality, China and Vietnam had the largest shares of enrolments (46.0% and 10.0% respectively). China also accounted for 43.7% of commencements, followed by Germany with 8.5%.

Enrolments and commencements in the Non-award courses (which include study exchange and foundation programs) grew 11.2% and 11.6% respectively. China and the USA accounted for more enrolments than any other nationality (24.2% and 19.1% respectively). Commencements from China increased by 20.7% on 2012 figures, however those from the USA declined by 3.5%.



Type	Enrolments			Commencements		
	2012	2013	Growth on 2012	2012	2013	Growth on 2012
Higher Education	230,167	231,186	0.4%	88,580	95,729	8.1%
VET	144,330	135,151	-6.4%	84,138	84,059	-0.1%
ELICOS	95,396	114,603	20.1%	75,562	91,405	21.0%
Schools ²	18,548	17,838	-3.8%	8,409	8,803	4.7%
Non-award	25,311	28,154	11.2%	20,599	22,980	11.6%
Total in Australia	513,752	526,932	2.6%	277,288	302,976	9.3%

The Top 5 nationalities contributed 52.1% of Australia's total enrolments					Double-digit increases & decreases for nationalities with over 5,000 enrolments (outside top 5)			
Nationality	2012	2013	Growth on 2012	Share of all nationalities	Nationality	2013	Growth on 2012	Rank
China	149,577	150,116	0.4%	28.5%	Brazil	17,554	16.3%	7
India	53,929	49,265	-8.6%	9.3%	Pakistan	12,869	15.2%	10
Republic of Korea	27,562	27,580	0.1%	5.2%	Colombia	12,030	18.8%	11
Vietnam	22,423	26,015	16.0%	4.9%	Philippines	8,830	27.3%	15
Thailand	20,142	21,762	8.0%	4.1%	Taiwan	8,228	14.3%	17
Other nationalities	240,119	252,194	5.0%	47.9%	Italy	5,377	37.1%	20
All nationalities	513,752	526,932	2.6%	100.0%				

¹ AEI data on enrolments and commencements (including the data in this update) relate only to international students in Australia on a student visa.

² Commencements in schools for the current reference period are not strictly comparable to earlier years due to recent changes to secondary school level courses at a single large provider.