

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

Outcome 3 - Tertiary, Skills, International and Indigenous Strategy

DEEWR Question No. EW0839_12

Senator Mason asked on 20 October 2011 , Hansard page 86

Question

Published attrition rates by demographic characteristic

Mr Aungles: For the 2010 data which we have recently released we have attrition rates for the sector as a whole and by institution. Currently we do not have published attrition rates by demographic characteristic but we could produce those if required. So those low SES attrition rates and retention rates are not in the published data.

Senator MASON: Why is it that they are not in the published data?

Mr Aungles: It is about the volume of information. We publish attrition rates at a fairly aggregate level.

Ms Paul: We can probably take it on notice.

Mr Aungles: We will take it on notice, Senator.

Senator MASON: I am with the minister on this. It is a signal priority of the government to increase low SES students and Professor Bradley said that in her review, and that is a good thing—and I think, Mr Hazlehurst and Ms Paul, you and I had a discussion about this last time. It is a good thing to increase participation. But, as the minister said before— and it is true—in the end it is all actually about completion. So perhaps it would be a good idea, if it were possible, to have this. Clearly, participation has been marked so therefore completion should be able to be marked in terms of the statistics available.

Ms Paul: We will take on notice the question and also the consideration of publication.

Answer

The Department has published 2009 attrition and retention rates for commencing bachelor students by higher education provider in Appendix 4: Attrition, Progress and Retention in the 2010 Higher Education Student Statistics Collection. 2009 attrition and retention rates refer to students commencing in 2009 who were attrited or retained in 2010. This information is available at the following address:

<http://www.deewr.gov.au/HigherEducation/Publications/HEStatistics/Publications/Pages/2010StudentFullYear.aspx>

The Department has published 2008 retention rates for all domestic students by higher education provider for Low SES, Non-English Speaking Background, Disability, Regional, Remote and Indigenous students in Appendix 5: Institutional Student Equity Performance Data in the 2009 Higher Education Student Statistics

Collection. 2008 retention rates refer to all students in 2008 who were retained in 2009. This information is available at the following address:

<http://www.deewr.gov.au/HigherEducation/Publications/HEStatistics/Publications/Pages/2009FullYear.aspx>

The Department expects to publish 2009 retention rates for all domestic students by higher education provider for Low SES, Non-English Speaking Background, Disability, Regional, Remote and Indigenous students in December 2011. This information is published at a later date as part of the Institutional Portfolio Performance dataset.