

REGIONAL UNIVERSITIES NETWORK (RUN) – SUBMISSION TO THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON COVID-19

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Please provide your members:

Q1. Domestic undergraduate applications received by July 30 (broken down by semester 2 intake and for Semester 1, 2021, if possible)

Q2. Domestic undergraduate applications received by this time in 2019 (broken down by Semester 2 intake and for Semester 1 2020, if possible).

Q3. Projected domestic undergraduate enrolments in 2021

Q4. Projected international student enrolments for 2021

Responses to the questions from Charles Sturt University, Southern Cross University, University of Southern Queensland and University of the Sunshine Coast are in the table below. CQUniversity's and University of New England's responses are provided separately below the table:

University		Semester (S) 2 Applics ¹	Semester (S) 3 Applics ¹	Semester (S) 1 Applics ¹	2021 Projection Intake	2021 Projection All
Charles Sturt University						
	Domestic undergraduate applications received by July 30 2020	23,604				
	Domestic undergraduate applications received by	22,544				

	this time in 2019					
	Projected domestic undergraduate enrolments in 2021				13837 EFTFL (based on historical data – assumption may not hold)	
	Projected international student enrolments for 2021				<u>Regional Campuses:</u> 235 commencing students in S 1 2021 if borders are open <u>Study Centres:</u> 3,800 students in S1 if borders are open, otherwise 2000.	
<i>Southern Cross University</i>						
	Domestic undergraduate applications received by July 30 2020	3,666				
	Domestic undergraduate applications received by this time in 2019	2,955		615 (S1, 2020)		
	Projected domestic undergraduate enrolments in 2021			889 so far for S 1, 2021		Total 7,152 EFTSL/11,443 students
	Projected international student					1,586 EFTSL/1,903 students ⁴

	enrolments for 2021					
<i>University of the Sunshine Coast</i>						
	Domestic undergraduate (bachelors and sub-bachelors) ² applications received by July 30 2020	2,790 ³				
	Domestic undergraduate applications received by this time in 2019	1,978				
	Projected domestic undergraduate enrolments in 2021				<i>Bachelors and sub-bachelors:</i> about 6,000 new students across all semesters in 2021	14,500-15,000
	Projected international student enrolments for 2021				75-100 new students	1,200
<i>University of Southern Queensland</i>						
	Domestic undergraduate applications received by July 30 2020	S2 2020 3540	S3 2020 161	S1 2021 331		

	Domestic undergraduate applications received by this time in 2019	S2 2019 3376	S3 2019 187	S1 2020 294		
	Projected domestic undergraduate enrolments in 2021				5144	15916
	Projected international student enrolments for 2021				250	1907

1. Applications
2. Includes QTAC first preferences and direct /returning deferral applications
3. Semester 2 2020 includes applications for USC's new Moreton Bay campus which opened in 2020. It contributed 687 applications.
4. It is assumed that international travel restrictions remain in place until at least September 2021. International commencing levels to remain similar to 2020 post-covid.

CQUniversity responses

Question 1:

The following is number of domestic applications as at 30th July 2021 for Term 2 2020 and Term 1 2021. The applications for the following year may have some variation due to intake dates on TAC's. The applications for Term 2 2020, represent approximately a 38% increase over previous year – 2019.

Intake Term	Applications
Term 2 2020	7215
Term 1 2021	1960
Total	9175

Question 2:

The following is number of domestic applications as at 30th July 2021 for Term 2 2019 and Term 1 2020. The applications for the following year may have some variation due to intake dates on TAC's.

Intake Term	Applications
Term 2 2019	5226
Term 1 2020	1776
Total	7002

Question 3:

CQU is currently overenrolled against its domestic student load for 2020, having experienced a very large increase in student demand in Term 2 2020. CQU saw its domestic undergraduate intake in Term 2 2020 increase by 34% over Term 2 2019. Many other Queensland universities have experienced similar enrolment increases, with the economic downturn and increase in unemployment attributable to COVID-19 being a key driver of that growth.

The University is expecting that increase in student demand to continue into 2021, however may not be in a position to fully service that increase. The University is experiencing increasing difficulties in securing clinical placements in key discipline areas such as Nursing due to the impact of COVID-19 on Queensland's health system, and is mindful of the implications of continuing to growing its enrolments further in excess of its funded load.

Further decisions will be made on this by the University's Executive later this year, however two scenarios for the University have been outlined below:

If the University were to grow its commencing student numbers to cater for the increase in student demand:

	Commencing Students	Total Students
Term 1	3,750	12,300
Term 2	1,750	12,400
Term 3	220	5,400

If the University were to manage its intake numbers to better align its domestic enrolments with its current Commonwealth funding amounts:

	Commencing Students	Total Students
Term 1	3,450	11,500
Term 2	1,300	11,600
Term 3	200	5,200

Question 4:

If Australia's international borders are open prior to Term 2 2021 for commencements of new International students in 2021, which is the expected likely situation (i.e. T1 2021 closed border, T2/T3 2021 open border):

	Commencing Students	Total Students
Term 1	646	2000
Term 2	1031	2500
Term 3	714	1217

If Australia's international borders are closed for commencements of new International students in 2021:

	Commencing Students	Total Students
Term 1	646	2000
Term 2	588	2023
Term 3	407	897

- Both estimates include ELICOS, Research and Higher Education coursework students.
- The closed border scenario assumes the majority of commencing students are commencing offshore studying a part-time workload via online learning, and will transition to on-campus study in Australia once restrictions are lifted.

University of New England

Q1. Domestic undergraduate applications received by July 30 (broken down by semester 2 intake and for Semester 1, 2021, if possible)

For Trimesters 1 and 2 2020 UNE received applications from 14,624 applicants.

Q2. Domestic undergraduate applications received by this time in 2019 (broken down by Semester 2 intake and for Semester 1 2020, if possible).

For Trimesters 1 and 2 2019 UNE received applications from 14,532 applicants.

Q3. Projected domestic undergraduate enrolments in 2021

Our most recent forecast for 2021 domestic student load is as follows:

Trimester 1: 3,630 EFTSL

Trimester 2: 3,328 EFTSL

Trimester 3: 1,786 EFTSL

At this stage the forecast is highly speculative as the ongoing impact of COVID-19 and possible implementation of the Jobs Ready Graduates package have not been incorporated. Note that the numbers are EFTSL only as we do not forecast student enrolments. This includes both commencing and continuing students which can be separated if needed.

Q4. Projected international student enrolments for 2021

Due to significant uncertainty we have not reforecast international student enrolments for 2021.