

Questions on Notice

Hearing of the Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee

Friday 1 November 2019.

1. How many visas are processed per year? Would you know that?

Under the Migration Regulations 1994, there are two types of applicants for student visas (subclass 500), primary applicants or secondary applicants. The primary applicant is the person who is proposing to study in Australia. The secondary applicant is generally a dependant of the primary applicant.

The following table shows the total number of visa applications lodged for all education sectors for the five year period of July 2014 to June 2019.

Financial Year of Visa Lodgement	Primary Applicant	Secondary Applicant	Total
2014-2015	286,566	46,261	332,827
2015-2016	312,962	47,743	360,705
2016-2017	328,446	46,220	374,666
2017-2018	361,177	52,156	413,333
2018-2019	407,801	65,614	473,415

2. Take the Group of Eight universities—the percentage of revenue for those universities, it would be fair to say, would be something in the order of in excess of 40 per cent?

In 2017, international students' fees contributed an average of **23.3 per cent** to the university sector's total operating revenues.

In 2017, international students' fees contributed an average of **27.5 per cent** to the Group of Eight universities' total operating revenues.

3. I'll just follow-up on what you've said there. You might not know this information, but if you can take it on notice, with regional students that come here and then decide, I'm particularly thinking about medical students who study regionally, to stay and work in regional areas—I'm thinking about those people who might not be able to afford to get a visa at a premium access service—are we at risk of losing that stream of potential doctors or potential psychologists, people that come and study here and then actually end up working and contributing?

Universities Australia is unable to access information linking medical students enrolled in particular institutions to specific workforce destinations. However, in 2018 there were **2,988** international students enrolled in medicine. Of these, **450 (15%)** were enrolled in "regional-based" universities.