

Question on notice no. 31

Portfolio question number: SQ17-001120

2017-18 Supplementary budget estimates

Education and Employment Committee, Education and Training Portfolio

Senator the Hon. Jacinta Collins: asked the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited on 26 October 2017—

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: In terms of this category of students who are admitted on the basis of their secondary education and had no submitted ATAR, I assume that's not the only element of that class. Are you able to describe for me, apart from the early offer element, what other elements would be in that cohort? Mr Misson: No, not in detail. The early offer is the main one that we're aware of anecdotally. It may be that the higher education people can shed more light on that. It's their data. Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Could you take that on notice for me? Mr Misson: Yes.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: I understand your report showed that this category had increased from 29 per cent in 2006 to 36 per cent now. And, in some institutions, this category was as high as 60 per cent. Do you have any sense of what explains that shift? Mr Misson: Yes, I think it's the same question, and we'll have to take it on notice without digging further.

Answer —

The Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership has provided the following response:

The Higher Education Student Data Collection (HESDC) collects the following data variables which indicate the main criterion used in granting student admission into a course: previously undertaken a higher education course, completed secondary education, undertaken a VET award course, mature age special entry provision, previous employment relevant to the field of study, and other basis. Regarding ATAR, the HESDC collect the student's ATAR percentile ranking or 'no ATAR' if an ATAR was not recorded into the student's HESDC record.

The Government commissioned the Higher Education Standards Panel to undertake a review of higher education admissions practices. The Government accepted all 14 of the panel's recommendations, which require all higher education institutions to be transparent about their basis of admission, including any bonus points offered, and true entry cut-offs. This will assist students in making choices about what and where to study.