

## Senate Committee: Education and Employment

### QUESTION ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015

**Outcome: Higher Education Research and International**

**Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000173**

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing.

#### ***Data from Graduate Careers Australia - fulltime employment***

##### **Question**

"Data from Graduate Careers Australia suggests that, three months after graduation, graduates are considerably less likely to be in fulltime employment. The figures are: in 2008, 82.2% were in fulltime employment. In 2014, the figure was 68.1%.

- (a) Do you think that change is significant?
- (b) What policy implications does it have?
- (c) Do you think that this trend will continue? Why?"

##### **Answer**

(a) and (b) Data from ABS *Education and Work*, 6227.0, indicates that in May 2014 the unemployment rate for all persons with a bachelor degree or higher qualification was 3.2 per cent in comparison with the overall unemployment rate of 5.8 per cent. Notwithstanding the recent decline in the full-time employment rate for recent bachelor degree graduates as shown by Graduate Careers Australia's *Graduate Destinations Survey*, the ABS data indicates that higher education graduates continue to experience substantial benefits in the labour market.

(c) The forward estimates for higher education graduates in full-time employment within four months of completion of degree as a proportion of those available for work (Program 3.3 Key Performance Indicator) are as follows:

	<b>2014–15 Revised Budget</b>	<b>2015–16 Budget</b>	<b>2016–17</b>	<b>2017–18</b>	<b>2018–19</b>
Higher education graduates in full-time employment within four months of completion of degree as a proportion of those available for work	68.1%	66.4%	66.1%	67.1%	67.4%

These estimates are based on a statistical relationship with Treasury estimates of the overall unemployment rate.