

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014-2015

Outcome 3 - Higher Education, Reform & Support

Department of Education Question No. ED0663\_15

Senator Carr asked on 22 October 2014 , Hansard page 124

Question

*University admissions data for 2015*

Senator KIM CARR: Can I first of all get the numbers? The 2.9 per cent—what is that in absolute terms, the number of students?

Mr Griew: I think we should take that on notice: (a) it is volatile data and, (b) it is point-in-time. You would want to be confident you are comparing it with the same point in the process last year.

Dr Taylor: And also, at this time I would prefer to take it on notice because sometimes we have to exclude states at different points in time because the data is not consistent.

Answer

The number of preliminary applications reported by Tertiary Admissions Centres (TACs) to the department is provided in Table 1 below. Statistics for the 2014 and 2015 academic years relate to reference dates of 9 October 2013 and 9 October 2014 respectively.

**Table 1: Preliminary applications by state/territory, 2014-2015**

State	2014	2015	% Change between 2014 and 2015
NSW/ACT	73,849	72,571	-1.7%
VIC	66,998	66,605	-0.6%
QLD	42,571	42,517	-0.1%
WA	15,111	10,858	-28.1%
SA/NT	21,639	21,831	0.9%
TAS	8,398	7,513	-10.5%
<b>Australia</b>	<b>228,566</b>	<b>221,895</b>	<b>-2.9%</b>
<b>Australia (excluding WA)*</b>	<b>213,455</b>	<b>211,037</b>	<b>-1.1%</b>

\* Excludes WA applications due to the WA half-year cohort effect for the 2015 academic year.

Preliminary applications data does not include applications made directly to universities. The number of direct applications to universities has increased substantially in recent years from 61,905 in 2010 to 89,718 in 2014. 96.8 per cent of direct applications are made by non-Year 12 applicants. Universities will submit direct applications data for the 2015 academic year to the department in March 2015.