

**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. ED0664\_15**

**Senator Carr asked on 22 October 2014 , Hansard page 125**

**Question**

***Trend in mature age and part-time students***

Mr Griew: Because he is talking about people who are more likely to be—

Senator KIM CARR: He is talking about mature age and part-time students. What can you tell me about the trend in mature age and part-time students, that is, the students for whom enrolment in higher education is a discretionary choice, to use his words?

Mr Griew: I think that we would have to take that on notice because they are disproportionately going to be the direct entry students, when you think about who goes through TAC and who goes direct to universities.

**Answer**

Direct applications have increased from 61,905 in 2010 to 89,718 in 2014. 96.4 per cent of direct applications are made by non-Year 12 applicants. Over the same period, non-year 12 applications to TACs have declined from 129,464 in 2010 to 123,822 in 2014.

The department's Applications and Offers data collection does not collect the study load intentions of applicants. Therefore, part-time student trends cannot be assessed using university applications data.