

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. ED0665_15

Senator Rhiannon asked on 22 October 2014, Hansard page 126

Question

How many enabling places the Commonwealth funds

Senator RHIANNON: While you are looking it up, I was interested in how many enabling places the Commonwealth funds? Mr Warburton: I will have that here, Senator. In 2014 there were 9,793 enabling places. Senator RHIANNON: That is the number of places. How many places does the Commonwealth fund, and what types of students are they meant to assist? Mr Warburton: I do not have the exact number of students covered by that. It would be roughly in the order of 1.4 times the number of places. For all sub-bachelor courses there are about 1.4 students in each place. I can take that on notice. Senator RHIANNON: For now, it is 1.4, which is the figure you just gave. Mr Warburton: That would give you a roughly correct figure. Senator RHIANNON: If you could take that on notice for the exact figure, thank you.

Answer

In 2013 (the most recent year for which the department has final data), there were 9588 equivalent full-time student places which attracted enabling loading. These places were distributed among 19,992 Commonwealth supported enabling students.

There were an additional 944 students in enabling courses of study that were not Commonwealth supported. In total, there were 20,936 domestic students in enabling courses in 2013.

Enabling courses help prepare students for higher education and provide a pathway to university for students who would otherwise not be qualified. These courses include bridging courses that assist students to meet course entry requirements and remedial courses that develop specific skills.

The *Higher Education Support Act 2003* defines an enabling course as

“a course of instruction provided to a person for the purpose of enabling the person to undertake a course leading to a higher education award, but does not include:

- (a) a course leading to a higher education award; or
- (b) any course that the Minister determines is not an enabling course for the purposes of this Act.”