

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. ED0722_15

Senator Ruston asked on 14 November 2014 , Hansard page 65

Question

Sub bachelor courses

Senator RUSTON: Do we have any stats on the lower-SES students who are likely to be seeking this sort of pathway into university? Ms Borthwick: I do not think we have them here today, but we can see if we can find them. .. Senator RUSTON: Are we seeing any difference in the graduation rate? CHAIR: It is a very socially progressive policy. Senator RUSTON: Yes—so, from the different methods of accessing education and pathways? Ms Borthwick: Again, we might have to take that on notice, but my memory is that there is a much higher success rate for students who have been through preparatory or pathway courses.

Answer

Refer to Table 1

A high proportion of low-SES students undertake sub-bachelor courses (22%) and enabling courses (29.3%) as pathways into university.

Domestic students commencing a bachelor course in 2005, who had completed a prior enabling course, had a higher completion rate eight years after commencement (62.6%), compared to school leavers with an ATAR under 60 (55.1% completion rate) and only a slightly lower completion rate compared to school leavers with an ATAR between 60 and 69 (63.7% completion rate).

Nationally, 72.3% of the 2005 cohort of domestic bachelor students commencing at Table A universities had completed a course within eight years of commencement.

Table 1. Cohort analysis for Table A commencing domestic bachelor students in 2005, showing attrition and completion information by 2012.

		Completed (in any year)	Still Enrolled in 2012	Re-enrolled but dropped out before 2012	Never came back after 2005
National Total (domestic bachelor students)		72.3	5.3	13.9	8.4
ATAR band (for school leavers)	30-49	50.7	4.7	26.5	18.1
	50-59	55.1	6.9	21.7	16.3
	60-69	63.7	7.1	18.4	10.9
	70-79	71.9	6.3	14.6	7.2
	80-89	81.4	5.0	9.8	3.9
	90-94	88.6	3.6	5.9	2.0
	95-100	93.8	1.9	3.4	0.9
	ATAR not provided or not required	68.0	5.7	15.9	10.5
Enabling Indicator	Prior enabling course	62.6	7.1	19.6	10.7
	No prior enabling course	72.6	5.3	13.7	8.4