

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016**

Outcome: Higher Education Research and International

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000653

Senator McKenzie, Bridget asked on 21 October 2015, Proof Hansard page 76

Participation of low-SES students and families in higher education

Question

CHAIR: The great hope of the demand driven system was that low-SES students and families would start participating in higher education in much greater numbers. Can you briefly tell us how that particular policy setting has played out for regional students? Did it reach the hopes for those in rural and regional areas?

Ms Borthwick: It certainly has increased participation from low-SES students. Sorry, I think the officer with the detailed statistics is not here anymore.

CHAIR: Mr Hart, do you have something to add?

Mr Hart: I was just going to say that we can provide that on notice.

CHAIR: Absolutely. I think in the forums it was that rural and regional were nowhere near the same rate of uptake for low SES as a result.

Answer

The number domestic undergraduate regional students increased from 108,179 in 2009 to 136,784 in 2014. The participation rates for regional students over this period remained stable, moving from 18.4 per cent to 18.3 per cent.

The number of domestic undergraduate remote students increased from 5635 in 2009 to 6555 in 2014. The participation rates for remote students over this period also remained stable, moving from 1.0 per cent to 0.9 per cent.