

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Additional Estimates Hearing 2011-12
15 February 2012

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

TOPIC: Demand Driven Higher Education – Equity students

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Rhiannon

QUESTION No.: AI-177

Is there any feedback yet from this year's higher education enrolment, whether universities are meeting participation targets for students from low SES backgrounds and other nominated under-represented groups?

What problems have been identified; and what is the government doing to address them?

Are there any particular types of universities that have had trouble meeting those targets at this stage?

ANSWER

Tables 1 and 2 show the baseline, latest available enrolment data for 2010 and 2011 performance targets with respect to universities' low socio-economic (SES) and other underrepresented group targets. Assessment of whether universities have achieved their low SES and other underrepresented group 2012 performance targets will be based on final 2011 student enrolment data which is expected to be available in the December quarter 2012. Assessment of whether universities have achieved their low SES performance target is based on the interim low SES measure.

The introduction of the demand driven funding system will enable more students to have the opportunity to benefit from a university education including those students from low SES backgrounds and other underrepresented groups. Reward Funding of \$27.6 million in 2012 provides incentive for universities to lift the participation of students from low SES backgrounds and other underrepresented groups to ensure these students are not left behind with the introduction of the demand driven funding system. In 2012, the Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program (HEPPP) will provide \$177.6 million to eligible universities to undertake activities and implement strategies that improve access to undergraduate courses for people from low SES backgrounds, as well as improving the retention and completion rates of those students.

Table 1: Proportion of domestic undergraduates who are from a low SES background

	----- 1A: Low SES background -----			
	Baseline	2010 Outcome	2012 Target	Target Type
Table A Providers				
New South Wales				
Australian Catholic University	13.46%	12.98%	13.71%	Improvement
Charles Sturt University	18.78%	18.58%	18.36%	Excellence
Macquarie University	7.26%	7.72%	7.51%	Improvement
Southern Cross University	22.82%	23.40%	18.36%	Excellence
The University of New England	19.43%	19.79%	18.36%	Excellence
The University of New South Wales	8.76%	9.22%	9.01%	Improvement
The University of Newcastle	20.03%	20.18%	18.36%	Excellence
The University of Sydney	8.47%	8.56%	8.72%	Improvement
University of Technology, Sydney	10.67%	10.93%	10.92%	Improvement
University of Western Sydney	19.13%	20.12%	18.36%	Excellence
University of Wollongong	14.11%	14.86%	14.36%	Improvement
Victoria				
Deakin University	12.55%	12.62%	12.80%	Improvement
La Trobe University	16.59%	16.98%	16.84%	Improvement
Monash University	11.01%	11.14%	11.26%	Improvement
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology	15.63%	14.99%	15.88%	Improvement
Swinburne University of Technology	10.99%	11.15%	11.24%	Improvement
The University of Melbourne	8.47%	8.67%	8.72%	Improvement
University of Ballarat	20.43%	20.39%	17.35%	Excellence
Victoria University	22.13%	21.60%	17.35%	Excellence
Queensland				
Central Queensland University	28.43%	27.34%	19.39%	Excellence
Griffith University	13.13%	13.36%	13.38%	Improvement
James Cook University	20.87%	20.46%	19.39%	Excellence
Queensland University of Technology	10.79%	10.91%	11.04%	Improvement
The University of Queensland	10.30%	10.23%	10.55%	Improvement
University of Southern Queensland	23.30%	23.50%	19.39%	Excellence
University of the Sunshine Coast	17.85%	18.00%	18.10%	Improvement
Western Australia				
Curtin University of Technology	10.75%	10.73%	11.00%	Improvement
Edith Cowan University	13.36%	13.00%	13.61%	Improvement
Murdoch University	14.59%	14.73%	14.84%	Improvement
The University of Western Australia	5.69%	5.64%	5.94%	Improvement
South Australia				
The Flinders University of South Australia	17.96%	18.09%	18.21%	Improvement
The University of Adelaide	12.38%	12.71%	12.63%	Improvement
University of South Australia	19.48%	19.88%	19.73%	Improvement
Tasmania				
University of Tasmania	21.77%	21.57%	22.02%	Improvement
Northern Territory				
Charles Darwin University	13.64%	15.00%	13.89%	Improvement
Australian Capital Territory				
University of Canberra	6.73%	7.22%	6.98%	Improvement
Commonwealth				
The Australian National University	4.96%	4.86%	5.21%	Improvement

Table 2: Proportion of domestic undergraduates who are from an other underrepresented group

----- 1B: Other Under-represented Groups -----				
Group		Baseline	2010 Outcome	2012 Target
Table A Providers				
New South Wales				
Australian Catholic University	Indigenous students	3.07%	2.48%	3.13%
Charles Sturt University	Indigenous students	1.48%	1.73%	1.54%
Macquarie University	Students with a disability	4.13%	4.29%	4.28%
Southern Cross University	Indigenous students	2.07%	2.55%	2.13%
The University of New England	Indigenous students	1.94%	2.46%	2.00%
The University of New South Wales	Indigenous students	0.71%	0.73%	0.77%
The University of Newcastle	Indigenous students	1.98%	2.23%	2.04%
The University of Sydney	Indigenous students	0.79%	0.73%	0.85%
University of Technology, Sydney	Indigenous students	1.24%	1.35%	1.30%
University of Western Sydney	Indigenous students	1.06%	1.09%	1.12%
University of Wollongong	Regional and remote students	20.85%	21.91%	21.01%
Victoria				
Deakin University	Students with a disability	3.58%	4.90%	3.73%
La Trobe University	Indigenous students	0.48%	0.49%	0.54%
Monash University	Indigenous students	0.27%	0.32%	0.33%
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology	Students from a NESB	4.97%	5.08%	5.05%
Swinburne University of Technology	Regional students	8.80%	9.56%	8.96%
The University of Melbourne	Postgraduate coursework low SES students	6.24%	6.01%	6.46%
University of Ballarat	Regional and remote students	75.30%	75.84%	75.46%
Victoria University	Students from a NESB	4.87%	5.23%	4.95%
Queensland				
Central Queensland University	Indigenous students	2.13%	2.50%	2.19%
Griffith University	Indigenous students	1.85%	2.04%	1.91%
James Cook University	Indigenous students	3.79%	4.28%	3.85%
Queensland University of Technology	Indigenous students	1.22%	1.24%	1.28%
The University of Queensland	Indigenous students	0.64%	0.78%	0.70%
University of Southern Queensland	Indigenous students	1.99%	2.24%	2.05%
University of the Sunshine Coast	Indigenous students	1.61%	1.42%	1.67%
Western Australia				
Curtin University of Technology	Postgraduate coursework low SES students	9.53%	10.64%	9.75%
Edith Cowan University	Regional students	16.00%	16.44%	16.16%
Murdoch University	Regional students	15.56%	16.36%	15.72%
The University of Western Australia	Regional and remote students	11.21%	11.38%	11.37%
South Australia				
The Flinders University of South Australia	Indigenous students	0.83%	0.95%	0.89%
The University of Adelaide	Regional students	11.09%	11.97%	11.25%
University of South Australia	Indigenous, regional, remote, NESB or students with a disability	25.77%	30.35%	26.04%
Tasmania				
University of Tasmania	Regional students	42.11%	42.97%	42.27%
Northern Territory				
Charles Darwin University	Indigenous students	4.47%	5.02%	4.53%
Australian Capital Territory				
University of Canberra	Regional students	16.24%	18.92%	16.40%
Commonwealth				
The Australian National University	Regional and remote students	13.84%	14.60%	14.00%

In 2012, the Government is providing \$177.6 million through the Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program (HEPPP) to assist universities to attract, support and retain students from a low SES status background.

The program consists of two components:

- A participation component to increase the participation of domestic undergraduate students from low SES backgrounds in higher education, and support the retention and success of those students. Under this component, universities receive funds based on their respective share of the indicator of domestic undergraduate students from low SES backgrounds.
- A partnership component to raise the aspirations and build the capacity of people from low SES backgrounds to participate in higher education. This will be done through outreach activities with stakeholders, including schools, State/Territory Governments, Vocational Education Training providers and community groups.

Universities reported in 2011 following the first year of HEPPP funding in 2010. Universities were asked to report on their activities, including details of the activity objectives, rationale of the objectives, progress towards objectives and the cost.

The reports did not indicate universities had identified problems in their chosen activities and strategies that would affect their ability to improve access to undergraduate courses for students from low SES backgrounds. Universities did not comment on problems associated with the retention or success of students from this cohort as a result of HEPPP activities.

The department is currently working on a more focused reporting framework for the 2012 year. The sector will be consulted as a part of this process. Further consultation with universities will also inform longer term evaluation activities for the program.