

**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

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

**TOPIC:** Places at regional universities

**REFERENCE:** Written Question – Senator Nash

**QUESTION No.:** AI-54

Refer to Nine MSN story ‘More uni offers in demand-driven system’. It refers to extra places being offered to students at NSW and ACT universities as a result of the govt removing the cap on the number of uni places that it will fund from this year. Minister Evans is quoted saying data from state-based tertiary admissions centres indicates there is strong demand from students for uni courses.

- How much demand is there is for uni places at regional universities
- Is there a breakdown per regional uni and courses if possible

**ANSWER**

The Department uses university applications as an indicator for demand. The table below shows the number of highest preference applications at regional headquartered institutions by field of education as of 19 January 2012 (latest data submitted to the Department).

There is no uniformly accepted list of regional universities. However, the universities included in the table below have their headquarters (defined as the location with the highest equivalent full time student load of Commonwealth supported students enrolled in internal and multi-modal modes of attendance) located outside the major city zone of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) Remoteness Structure.

The Department receives submissions of applications and offers data from Tertiary Admissions Centres (TACs). The latest data submitted includes domestic undergraduate applications and main round offers up to 19 January 2012. This data represents approximately 98% of final TAC highest preference applications data and 94% of final offers data (based on analysis of 2010 data). The Department will receive further data submissions including direct applications and offers data between March 2012 and May 2012.

Information on course names are not available in the applications and offers dataset. A breakdown of highest preference applications by broad field of education is presented in the table below for January 2012.

Early indications are that there has been a 5.8% increase in the number of highest preference applications lodged for courses at regional headquartered universities in 2012, compared to 2011. This compares with an increase of only 0.9% for all universities.

Table: Domestic undergraduate highest preference applications (as of 19 January 2012) by broad field of education by regional headquartered institutions (Tertiary Admissions Centre data only)

	Highest preference applications - January 2012										
	Natural and Physical Sciences	Information Technology	Engineering and Related Technologies	Architecture and Building	Agriculture, Environmental and Related Studies	Health	Education	Management and Commerce	Society and Culture	Creative Arts	Total Jan 2012
Central Queensland University	120	105	365	171	43	1,408	332	433	441	134	3,552
Charles Darwin University	122	31	129	21	41	868	291	96	468	44	2,111
Charles Sturt University	176	89	0	0	238	2,340	643	230	485	402	4,603
James Cook University	486	84	251	21	0	3,330	459	325	715	203	5,874
Southern Cross University	96	26	0	0	104	667	712	402	237	231	2,475
The University of New England	336	23	19	21	127	189	210	95	473	74	1,567
University of Ballarat	100	59	44	0	0	348	395	138	200	245	1,529
University of Southern Queensland	81	51	721	0	0	266	743	348	570	116	2,896
University of Tasmania	493	113	484	185	114	4,237	713	550	1,640	502	9,240
<b>Total (regional headquartered universities)</b>	<b>2,010</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>2,013</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>13,653</b>	<b>4,498</b>	<b>2,617</b>	<b>5,229</b>	<b>1,951</b>	<b>33,847</b>
<b>Total (non-regional headquartered universities)</b>	<b>20,742</b>	<b>6,148</b>	<b>15,911</b>	<b>8,673</b>	<b>3,424</b>	<b>54,310</b>	<b>18,400</b>	<b>31,774</b>	<b>48,310</b>	<b>24,084</b>	<b>233,544</b>
<b>Total (all universities)</b>	<b>22,752</b>	<b>6,729</b>	<b>17,924</b>	<b>9,092</b>	<b>4,091</b>	<b>67,963</b>	<b>22,898</b>	<b>34,391</b>	<b>53,539</b>	<b>26,035</b>	<b>267,391</b>