

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio  
Additional Estimates Hearing 2012-13  
13 February 2013

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

**TOPIC:** Senior Academic workforce

**REFERENCE:** Written Question - Senator Rhiannon

**QUESTION No:** AI-100

1. What are the figures on the numbers of senior academic leaders in each broad field of education?
2. Considering rates of casualisation in the university workforce, is there any strategy being discussed with universities regarding the next generation of senior academics?
3. What is the research on ratios of qualified and experienced teachers supervising post-graduate students?

**ANSWER**

1. The Higher Education Staff Data Collection provides information on various characteristics of staff employed by Table A providers (public universities), Table B providers (Bond University, The University of Notre Dame Australia and MCD University of Divinity) and Avondale College.

The latest available data on higher education staff numbers by discipline group is for 2011.

In 2011, there were 32,244 academic staff whose main duties were 'Teaching-Only' or 'Teaching and Research' across ten broad discipline groups. Of these academic staff, 18,139 were in senior lecturer (level C) or above positions.

A detailed breakdown of higher education academic staff by discipline group in 2011 is provided in Table 1.

**Table 1: Number of Academic staff by discipline group, 2011**

	<b>Above Senior Lecturer</b>	<b>Senior Lecturer (Level C)</b>	<b>Lecturer (Level B)</b>	<b>Below Lecturer (Level A)</b>	<b>Total Staff Number</b>
Natural and Physical Sciences	1,784	1,167	1,207	413	4,571
Information Technology	335	386	358	80	1,159
Engineering and Related Technologies	959	685	627	112	2,383
Architecture and Building	179	212	229	39	659
Agriculture, Environmental and Related Studies	228	191	180	61	660
Health	2,034	2,046	2,577	762	7,419
Education	435	596	982	118	2,131
Management and Commerce	1,064	1,003	1,489	358	3,914
Society and Culture	1,995	1,835	2,629	693	7,152
Creative Arts	380	625	937	254	2,196
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,393</b>	<b>8,746</b>	<b>11,215</b>	<b>2,890</b>	<b>32,244</b>

Note:

- (a) Data source: Higher Education Student and Staff Statistics collections.
- (b) Data included only staff who worked in Academic organisation units and whose function is Teaching-only or Teaching & Research.

2. Universities' academic workforce strategies are a matter for individual universities to devise and implement. However, the department maintains an interest in national academic workforce issues.

The Australian Government commissioned research into the academic workforce, leading to the publication of two reports in 2011: *Regenerating the Academic Workforce: the careers, intentions and motivations of higher degree research students in Australia*, published by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) and *The Australian Academic Profession in Transition*, published by the Centre for Study of Higher Education.

The department is currently reviewing the Higher Education Staff Data Collection in consultation with the sector. Part of this work is considering the feasibility of collecting additional data on casual academic staff and their contribution.

3. The department does not collect this data.