

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2012-13
28 and 29 May 2012

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

TOPIC: Low SES students

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 13 February 2012, page 84)

QUESTION No.: AI-40

Senator MASON: Do you produce projections of the numbers of low SES students over the next few years? Have you got projections?

Mr de Carvalho: Yes, we need to do that. Last year there was a budget measure that said we will move to setting the participation amount at an estimated \$1,400 per student. That estimated per capita figure was based on the program allocation on the one hand and the number of students that we expected, low SES students who would be eligible for access to the program or for that particular amount.

Senator MASON: Can I get to that in a minute. I do want to go there. Are you able to provide to the committee, then, the numbers of low SES students over the next few years? Is that possible?

Mr de Carvalho: The projections?

Senator MASON: Yes.

Mr de Carvalho: I will take that on notice.

ANSWER

Over the four years to 2015, the department estimates the following total number of domestic undergraduate low SES enrolments.

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total number of domestic undergraduate low SES enrolments	116,000	125,000	133,000	139,000

Note these projections are based on the low SES postcode measure. The low SES postcode measure is based on students' postcode of permanent home residence, with the SES value derived from the 2006 SEIFA Education and Occupation Index for postal areas. Postal areas in the bottom 25 per cent of the population aged 15-64 are classified as low SES.