

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2004-2005 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 2
Output Group: 2.4 – Funding for Higher Education.

DEST Question No. E479_05

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

According to an article in the AFR of 29/12/04, DEST cites the current transition rate for school leavers into higher education as 28.6%. For what year is that the figure?

This represents a decline on past years. Please provide a table showing the school leaver transition rate back to 1996.

Answer:

Percentage of year 12 completers in higher education in first year out of school

The figure of 28.6% quoted in the Australian Financial Review article appears to be for 2003 and represents the proportion of all school leavers (irrespective of whether they finished Year 12 or not) who in their first year out of school were in higher education. The data comes from the ABS *Survey of Education and Work* (Cat No 6227.0).

The most appropriate measure for the 'rate of transition' from school to higher education is the proportion of Year 12 students who go on to higher education, given that they are the group most likely to be aspiring toward university education. The table below contains data from 1996 – 2003 (latest currently available) using this concept. The data have been extracted from the DEST *Higher Education Statistics* collections and the ABS *School Australia* (ABS Cat. No. 4221.0) publication.

Percentage of Year 12 completers in Higher Education in first year out of school	
	%
1996	34.4
1997	35.2
1998	34.6
1999	34.3
2000	32.3
2001	31.8
2002	32.3
2003	29.8

