## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

## SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2003-2004 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 1
Output Group: 1.1

## DEST Question No. E260-04

Senator Harradine asked on 10 June 2003

## Question:

Please provide a table showing Tasmanian year 12 retention rates, comparing these rates with the rates of other Australian States and Territories.

## Answer:

The year 12 retention rates as calculated by the Australian Bureau of Statistics are set out below, together with appropriate footnotes.

## AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

CAT. NO. 4221.0 SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA, 2002
TABLE 50. APPARENT RETENTION RATES OF SECONDARY STUDENTS(a), from Year 7/8 TO Year 12

|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { NS } \\ \text { W } \end{gathered}$ | Vic. | Qld | SA | WA | Tas. | NT | $\begin{array}{r} A C \\ T \end{array}$ | AUSTRALIA |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Male s | Females | Person |
|  | \% | \% | \% | \% | \% | \% | \% | \% | \% | \% | \% |
| 1996 | 67.7 | 75.3 | 76.5 | 68.4 | 70.7 | 53.1 | 41.0 | 91.3 | 65.9 | 77.0 | 71.3 |
| 1997 | 67.2 | 76.3 | 77.9 | 66.9 | 71.6 | 58.6 | 42.0 | 91.6 | 66.2 | 77.8 | 71.8 |
| 1998 | 67.2 | 75.9 | 77.3 | 66.7 | 71.1 | 62.1 | 42.9 | 91.0 | 65.9 | 77.7 | 71.6 |
| 1999 | 67.6 | 76.2 | 77.5 | 67.0 | 71.5 | 66.7 | 52.9 | 92.5 | 66.4 | 78.5 | 72.3 |
| 2000 | 67.5 | 77.2 | 77.3 | 65.4 | 71.3 | 69.5 | 49.7 | 87.1 | 66.1 | 78.7 | 72.3 |
| 2001 | 68.2 | 79.3 | 79.0 | 66.4 | 72.0 | 68.7 | 50.9 | 89.3 | 68.1 | 79.1 | 73.4 |
| 2002 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| All schools | 69.9 | 80.9 | 81.3 | 66.7 | 73.7 | 72.6 | 53.0 | 88.1 | 69.8 | 80.7 | 75.1 |
| Government | 63.8 | 74.4 | 76.5 | 56.9 | 69.0 | 72.9 | 63.1 | 98.7 | 64.0 | 75.3 | 69.5 |
| Non-government | 82.4 | 91.7 | 90.6 | 86.7 | 83.1 | 71.8 | 34.1 | 74.0 | 81.2 | 90.7 | 85.9 |

(a) Full-time students only.

TABLE 51. APPARENT RETENTION RATES OF SECONDARY STUDENTS(a), from Year 10 TO Year 12

|  | NSW | Vic. | Qld | SA | WA | Tas. | NT | ACT | AUSTRALIA |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Male s | Females | Person <br> s |
|  | \% | \% | \% | \% | \% | \% | \% | \% | \% | \% | \% |
| 1996 | 70.1 | 78.9 | 76.5 | 71.6 | 71.1 | 54.2 | 55.8 | 92.6 | 68.6 | 78.7 | 73.6 |
| 1997 | 70.2 | 79.9 | 77.9 | 71.0 | 72.8 | 60.7 | 62.8 | 92.0 | 69.3 | 79.9 | 74.5 |
| 1998 | 69.8 | 79.1 | 77.7 | 71.2 | 71.8 | 64.2 | 60.4 | 92.5 | 68.9 | 79.4 | 74.1 |
| 1999 | 70.0 | 78.7 | 78.3 | 71.4 | 71.5 | 68.9 | 64.7 | 92.5 | 68.9 | 79.9 | 74.4 |
| 2000 | 69.8 | 79.7 | 78.7 | 69.5 | 71.6 | 71.6 | 62.2 | 88.7 | 69.0 | 80.0 | 74.4 |
| 2001 | 70.3 | 81.6 | 79.7 | 69.6 | 71.9 | 70.5 | 64.9 | 93.3 | 70.8 | 80.1 | 75.4 |
| 2002 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| All Schools | 72.4 | 82.9 | 81.1 | 70.6 | 73.9 | 75.0 | 66.2 | 89.8 | 72.4 | 81.7 | 77.0 |
| Government | 67.4 | 77.5 | 76.5 | 61.9 | 69.7 | 75.3 | 73.1 | 101 | 67.1 | 77.5 | 72.2 |
| Non-government | 82.1 | 91.5 | 89.8 | 86.9 | 82.1 | 74.1 | 49.8 | 75.2 | 82.4 | 89.3 | 85.9 |

(a) Full-time students only.

Apparent retention rate
This is the number of full-time school students in a designated level/year of education expressed as a percentage of their respective cohort group (which is either at the commencement of their secondary schooling or Year 10). In this publication, apparent retention rates are generally calculated for full-time school students who continued to Year 12 of secondary schooling. A separate comparison has been included for retention rates for Indigenous and non-Indigenous school students who continued to Years 9, 10, 11 or 12.
See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 16 for details of how apparent retention rates are calculated.

To calculate the apparent retention rate at the Australia level (as shown in table 11), the total number of full-time students in Year 12 in 2002 is divided by the number of full-time students in the base year, which is Year 7 in NSW, Victoria (Vic.), Tas. and the ACT in 1997 and Year 8 in QId, SA, WA and the NT in 1998 (since those years represent the commencement of the secondary school system in the respective state or territory). The resultant figure is converted to a percentage. In tables 12 and 13 the base year becomes Year 10 and the retention year remains at Year 12. In table 14 the base year is Year 7/8 but the retention years are Years 9, 10, 11 and 12.

Care should be exercised in the interpretation of apparent retention rates as the method of calculation does not take into account a range of factors. At the Australia level these include students repeating a year of education, migration and other net changes to the school population. At lower levels of disaggregation, additional factors affecting the data, such as enrolment policies (which contribute to different age/grade structures between states and territories), inter-sector transfer and interstate movements of students, have not been taken into account. Particularly in small jurisdictions, relatively small changes in student numbers can create apparently large movements in retention rates.
Part-time students are currently excluded from apparent retention rates; the effect of this exclusion varies between states and territories.

