

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 2

Output Group: 2.4 – Funding for higher education

DEST Question No. E301_04

Senator Harradine asked on 5 June 2003

Question:

Tasmania has the lowest university participation rate for 15-24 year olds in Australia, with only 11.3 per cent undertaking university study. What work has been done to investigate the reasons for this low participation rate and how it might be addressed? Please provide me with details and copies of any relevant research

Answer:

Participation rates

The Department is not aware of any recent analysis undertaken to determine the cause of Tasmania's university participation rate. The university participation rate in Tasmania is likely to be explained by a unique combination of factors such as school retention, participation in vocational education and training, educational aspirations, interstate migration, student demand and workforce demands. The Department is not aware of any research that specifically addresses how Tasmanian participation rates might be increased. The Department does administer a number of programmes designed to improve educational participation and outcomes for people from under-represented groups. These include the Higher Education Equity Programme and the Indigenous Support Fund.