

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 2

Output Group: 2.4 - Research, Analysis & Evaluation Group (RAEG)

DEST Question No. E303_04

Senator Harradine asked on 5 June 2003

Question:

What has been the level of unmet demand for university places in Tasmania each year over the past five years?

Answer:

Final Applications and Offers for Tasmania

The final applications and offers for Tasmania over the period, 1999 to 2003 is set out below in Table 1. It should be noted that the data provided here refer only to applications received by the admission centres and offers made through the centres and do not include direct applications to institutions or offers made by institutions.

Table 1: Final applications and offers for Tasmania, 1999-2003

Year	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Final applications	5670	6021	6028	6484	6692
Final offers	4793	4729	5110	5466	5519
Number of applicants without an offer	877	1292	918	1018	1173
Percentage of applicants without an offer	15.5	21.5	15.2	15.7	17.5

Source: Raw data from State Admission Centres. This data excludes applications submitted directly to universities and those via Open Learning

However the raw applications and offers data is not necessarily an accurate indicator of unmet demand. In order to gain a more realistic indication of 'unmet demand' for higher education the AVCC applies a discounting methodology to account for:

- Double counting of people applying to more than one state admission centre;
- Successful applicants who have rejected an offer of a place; and
- Less qualified applicants who may have been unrealistic in their choices.

The total number of unsuccessful eligible applicants, after discounting, is set out below in Table 2.

Table 2: Resultant Range for unsuccessful applicants, 1999-2003

Year	Unsuccessful Applicants Range (after discounting)	Unsuccessful Applicants as % of eligible applicants
1999	150 - 250	2.6 - 4.3
2000	200 - 200	3.2 - 3.2
2001	200 - 300	3.4 - 5.0
2002	200 - 300	3.1 - 4.6
2003	200 - 300	3.0 - 4.5

Source: Survey of Applicants for Undergraduates Higher Education Courses, 1999-2003.