

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2009-10**

Outcome: 3

DEEWR Question No. EW0359_10

Senator Nash asked on 4 June, EEWR Hansard page 40.

Question

Deferment of Courses

(Q a) Senator Nash – But, as it is only a one-year deferment, you would have to reapply even for that next six months?

Senator Hanson-Young – Yes, and they often apply as a mature-age student.

Ms Paul – We can check that for you.

(Q b) Senator Nash – Which is also a significant problem, I would imagine. Do we have any figures on the likelihood of students going to university after having one year off after school as opposed to two years off?

Ms Paul – I am not sure. I think we would probably have to take that on notice

Answer

Deferment of Courses

(a) Deferral policies and procedures are a matter for individual universities and universities are not required to report this information to the Department. However, the Department understands that universities generally offer one year's deferral to commencing students seeking this path. Most universities also may grant an additional period of deferral of six months or more, usually one year, on a case by case basis.

The Department does not hold historical data on the relative proportions of students commencing university by length of time off study after completing Year 12. In 2009, unit record data on university applications and offers are available to the Department for the first time.

Unit record data will allow tracking of a cohort of Year 12 completers through the university admissions process. However, as only one year of unit record data is currently available, it is not yet possible to follow a cohort of Year 12 completers to see the proportion who commenced straight from school, after a one year gap and after a two year gap.