

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

Outcome 3 - Higher Education

DEEWR Question No.EW0167_12

Senator Mason provided in writing.

Question

Upfront Payment Of HECS-HELP

1. What is the demographic and/or socioeconomic profile of students who choose to pay their undergraduate HECS-HELP fee upfront rather than choosing to defer the fees to be repaid as a loan in an income contingent basis?
2. Of those undergraduate students who choose to pay their HECS-HELP fees upfront, how many (numerically and proportionally) are: (a) full-time undergraduate students; (b) part-time undergraduate students; (c) students from low Socio-Economic Status backgrounds; (d) from regional, rural and isolated areas respectively; (e) external students; (f) students who are married; and (g) mature age students.

Answer

The latest actual verified data available at this time is for the 2009 calendar year. Information on the demographic and socio-economic profile of students is in the attached table. The data is for Equivalent Full Time Student Load (EFTSL).

| Profile | | Numerical | Proportion |
|-------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Type of Attendance | Full-time | 64,186 | 87.02% |
| | Part-time | 9,576 | 12.98% |
| Socio-Economic Status | Low | 8,258 | 11.20% |
| Regional Classification | Metro | 60,115 | 81.50% |
| | Regional | 12,258 | 16.62% |
| | Remote | 888 | 1.20% |
| | Not known | 501 | 0.68% |
| Mode of Attendance | External | 5,602 | 7.59% |
| Age Group | Up to 24 years | 61,887 | 83.90% |
| | 25 to 34 years | 5,687 | 7.71% |
| | 35 to 44 years | 3,635 | 4.93% |
| | 45 to 54 years | 2,049 | 2.78% |
| | 55 and over | 503 | 0.68% |
| Total | | 73,762 | 100.00% |

Data on marital status is not available.