

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

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

Outcome 3 - Higher Education

DEEWR Question No.EW0439_12

Senator Mason asked on 1/06/2011, Hansard page 93.

Question

Participation Rates For Low-Ses Enrolments

Senator MASON: Indeed. Do we have much data on this, Mr Hazlehurst, in terms of participation rates for low-SES enrolments across states and institutions?

Mr Hazlehurst: Yes.

Senator MASON: Could you give that to me across the 39 universities? I would be interested in that and I know Senator Nash would be for regional universities.

Mr Hazlehurst: Yes, I think so, Senator.

Answer

The 2009 full year participation rates for students from low SES backgrounds at Table A universities are shown in the following table.

As part of the budget package for 2009-10 the Government announced that better measures of SES will be developed which are based on the circumstances of individual students and their families.

In consultation with the higher education sector, DEEWR has developed an interim indicator of low SES in higher education based on a combination of the Socio-economic Index for Areas (SEIFA) Index of Education and Occupation (IEO) measure at the Census Collection District (CD) level and a Centrelink student payments measure. In the interim indicator, the CD measure has been assigned a weight of 2/3 and the Centrelink payments measure a 1/3 weight.

Low SES participation rates for undergraduates*, Table A universities, full year 2009

State**/University	Interim low SES Indicator
New South Wales	
Charles Sturt University	18.8%
Macquarie University	7.3%
Southern Cross University	22.8%
The University of New England	19.4%
The University of New South Wales	8.8%
The University of Newcastle	20.0%
The University of Sydney	8.5%
University of Technology, Sydney	10.7%
University of Western Sydney	19.1%
University of Wollongong	14.1%
Victoria	
Deakin University	12.5%
La Trobe University	16.6%
Monash University	11.0%
RMIT University	15.6%
Swinburne University of Technology	11.0%
The University of Melbourne	8.5%
University of Ballarat	20.4%
Victoria University	22.1%
Queensland	
Central Queensland University	28.4%
Griffith University	13.1%
James Cook University	20.9%
Queensland University of Technology	10.8%
The University of Queensland	10.3%
University of Southern Queensland	23.3%
University of the Sunshine Coast	17.8%
South Australia	
The Flinders University of South Australia	18.0%
The University of Adelaide	12.4%
University of South Australia	19.5%
Western Australia	
Curtin University of Technology	10.7%
Edith Cowan University	13.4%
Murdoch University	14.6%
The University of Western Australia	5.7%
Tasmania	
University of Tasmania	21.8%
Northern Territory	
Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education	70.3%
Charles Darwin University	13.6%
Australian Capital Territory	
The Australian National University	5.0%
University of Canberra	6.7%
Multi-State	
Australian Catholic University	13.5%
Total	14.1%

* Undergraduate courses include Bachelor, Associate Degree, Advanced Diploma, Diploma and Associate Diploma courses.

** State or Territory of University.