

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 2

Output Group: 2.4 – Funding for higher education

DEST Question No. E467_04

Senator Carr asked on 6 November 2003

Question:

Refers to DEST Question No. E579_03

In February you told us that data was being collected on university classes with small enrolments.

Can you provide the data gathered during the Crossroads review process on university classes with small enrolments?

Answer:

Small Enrolments Data

Enrolments data is collected from higher education institutions every six months as part of the Department's normal collection processes. Other priorities over the course of this year have not allowed the Department the time to fully analyse the most recent data in relation to class sizes.

Data on the number of students enrolled for individual units of study was published in Table A9 (page 58) of the "Higher Education at the Crossroads" discussion paper. The published data was as follows:

unit sizes (e) (excluding research units)	1991	2000	absolute change	% change
number of units with less than 5 enrolments	15,145	20,681	5,536	37
number of units with 500 enrolments or more	364	664	300	82
number of units offered	76,287	91,853	15,566	20

(e) Figures are based on institutional coding of units and may not relate to absolute class sizes.
Source: Selected Higher Education Statistics. 1991 and 2000