

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2005-2006 SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 2

Output Group: 2.4 – Funding for higher education.

DEST Question No. E656_06

Senator Nettle provided in writing.

Question:

What are the Minister's estimates for unmet demand for student enrolments in Universities throughout Australia for each year from 1996 to 2004?

Answer:

Unmet demand for student enrolments in Universities

Estimates for unmet demand for undergraduate places in Universities are produced by the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee (AVCC). The AVCC releases these estimates around May each year.

To estimate unmet demand, the AVCC applies a formula to applications and offers data supplied by State and Territory Tertiary Admission Centres (TACs). The formula enables adjustments to the data to take into account duplications resulting from multiple applications lodged by the same person, unsuccessful applicants with unrealistic expectations and the rejections of offers by applicants.

In 2005 the AVCC significantly revised their methodology and provided comparable figures for the years 2001-05. These are provided in Table A. Data prior to 2001 are available on the AVCC website¹ in pre-2005 publications. However, as the AVCC has advised that these are not comparable with the latest figures, we have not provided them here.

Table A

Australia: Estimated unmet demand for undergraduate university courses, 2001-2005

	Number	% change
2001	16,200	
2002	23,700	46.3
2003	35,700	50.6
2004	36,100	1.1
2005	19,600	-45.7

Source: AVCC '2005 Report on Applications for Undergraduate University Courses'

¹ 2005 Report on Applications for Undergraduate University Courses is available on line at the AVCC web site:
http://www.avcc.edu.au/documents/publications/stats/unmet/Unmet_Demand_Report_2005.pdf