

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 2

Output Group: 2.1 – Funding for vocational education and training.

DEST Question No. E658_06

Senator Nettle provided the following question in writing on 2 November 2005

Question:

What are the Minister's estimates for unmet demand for student enrolments in each of the following skill areas for each of the years 1996 to 2004?

- i. Doctors
- ii. Dentists
- iii. Nurses
- iv. Teachers (Primary)
- v. Teachers (Secondary)
- vi. Optometrists

Answer:

Unmet demand for student enrolments in Universities for particular fields of education

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

The AVCC does not publish estimates of unmet demand by field of education.

However, the AVCC does provide some information on 'eligible applicants not receiving an offer' by field of education. In defining an eligible applicant, the AVCC removes Year 12 applicants with unrealistic expectations of getting into university (those with a TER of below 53). 'Eligible applicants not receiving an offer' are still an over estimate of unmet demand as multiple applications lodged by the same person, applicants with one or two preferences only and rejection of offers are not taken into account. The AVCC takes these additional factors into account when it estimates unmet demand¹.

The following tables provide information on 'eligible applicants not receiving' an offer for selected fields of education for 1996-2000 and 2001-2005. Specific data on optometrists, teachers (Primary) and teachers (Secondary) are not available.

¹ Details about data and methodology used by the AVCC for "eligible applications not receiving an offer" and estimates of "unmet demand" can be found in the AVCC 2005 *Report on Applications for Undergraduate University Courses*. This report is available on the AVCC web site:
http://www.avcc.edu.au/documents/publications/stats/unmet/Unmet_Demand_Report_2005.pdf

Australia - Total eligible applicants and eligible applicants not receiving an offer by selected field of study, 1996-2000

Field of Study	Eligible applicants														
	1996 (a)			1997			1998			1999			2000		
	Total	no offer	offer	Total	no offer	offer	Total	no offer	offer	Total	no offer	offer	Total	no offer	offer
Education	20,127	4,680	15,448	18,489	3,353	15,136	17,783	3,848	13,935	18,780	4,386	14,394	19,601	4,761	14,840
Dentistry			0	1,648	846	802	1,175	781	394	1,163	674	489	1,133	597	536
Nursing			0	8,550	620	7,930	9,054	836	8,218	8,991	1,393	7,598	9,096	1,473	7,623
Medicine			0	7,027	4,794	2,233	6,453	4,356	2,097	7,135	4,029	3,106	8,076	4,768	3,308

Source: Annual publications of the AVCC 'Survey of applications for undergraduate higher education courses' various years.

Note: (a) The individual figures for Dentistry, Nursing, Medicine from 1993 - 96 were not collected.

Australia - Total eligible applicants and eligible applicants not receiving an offer by broad field of education, 2001-2005

Field of Education	Eligible applicants														
	2001 (b)			2002			2003			2004			2005		
	Total	no offer	offer	Total	no offer	offer	Total	no offer	offer	Total	no offer	offer	Total	no offer	offer
Education	20,000	5,676	14,324	22,575	7,787	14,788	24,160	9,610	14,550	24,832	9,841	14,991	25,308	6,660	18,648
Dental Studies	671	346	325	982	573	409	1,095	679	416	1,431	864	567	1,776	981	795
Nursing	9,507	1,544	7,963	11,314	2,934	8,380	13,313	4,861	8,452	13,628	4,545	9,083	13,675	2,716	10,959
Medical Studies	7,540	4,565	2,975	6,834	5,283	1,551	7,733	5,952	1,781	8,764	6,555	2,209	8,316	5,996	2,320

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

Note: (b) Data for 2001 onwards was collected on a different basis than data prior to 2001. From 2001, data was coded in ASCED and the new definition of applicant was used. The revised definition of applicant is "those students who have applied via the Admission Centre and indicate a university undergraduate course either as their first or second preference on their application".