

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. E686_06 – Final

Senator Wong asked on 2 November 2005, EWRE Hansard page 97.

Question:

The Committee would be pleased to see the information regarding people who do not get university places and the fact that a very substantial proportion do go onto VET.

Answer:

Enrolments and Applications

Research released by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER), *Unmet Demand? Characteristics and Activities of University Applicants Not Offered a Place* shows that the reason why some Year 12 students fail to gain a university place is relatively poor tertiary entrance scores.

The research included an analysis of data for Year 12 students in 2001 and indicated that those who did not receive an offer for university in 2002 had ENTER (Equivalent National Tertiary Entrance Rank) scores substantially lower on average than those students who gained a place.

The average ENTER score for those who did not get offered a place was 54. This contrasts with an average score of 80 for those who successfully applied, received an offer and enrolled in either 2002 or 2003.

Very few applicants with ENTER scores of 70 or over failed to get an offer of a university place. Only a quarter of those who did not receive a place had scores above 64.

In addition, further research from ACER, *Course change and attrition from higher education* published in June 2005, showed that students commencing university courses who had relatively low ENTER scores were at higher risk of dropping out before completing their courses.

Attrition rates in the first few years of study for those students who received an ENTER of less than 70 was 23%, compared with 5% for those with ENTER scores of 90 and over, and 11% for those with scores of 80 – 89.

The research found that ninety per cent of all those Year 12 students who missed out on a university place went into further study or employment, including New Apprenticeships.

Forty-six percent of those who missed out on getting a university place enrolled in the vocational education and training sector – 24% in a diploma level course, 16% in New Apprenticeships and the rest in other certificate level courses.

A copy of the report is attached.