

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations**

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

**Outcome 3 - Tertiary, Skills, International and Indigenous Strategy**

**DEEWR Question No.** EW0669\_12

**Senator Rhiannon provided in writing.**

**Question**

**Demand Driven funding**

Do you expect the increase of casualisation will be greater in regional universities?

**Answer**

There were 1,603 full time equivalent (FTE) casual staff in regional universities in 2010, representing 12.4% of all full time equivalent staff. Regional universities are defined here as those having their largest campus outside the major city zone of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Remoteness Structure. They include Charles Sturt University, Southern Cross University, University of New England, University of Ballarat, Central Queensland University, University of Southern Queensland, University of Tasmania, Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education and Charles Darwin University.

The proportion of full time equivalent (FTE) casual staff in regional universities was lower than the national average of 16.2% in 2010.

The Australian Government provided an additional \$109.9 million for regional loading in the 2011-12 Budget, increasing total funding to \$249.4 million over four years. This will strengthen the delivery of higher education in regional areas by helping to overcome the higher costs of regional campuses. Regional universities as autonomous, independent institutions are responsible of course for managing their workforce needs and strategies including the employment of permanent and casual staff to manage workforce demands.