



**Australian Government**

**Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations**

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# Undergraduate Applications, Offers and Acceptances 2011

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# 1. Executive Summary

## *National applications, offers and acceptances data collection, 2011*

Over the past four years, the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) has been working closely with the higher education sector to improve the quality, comprehensiveness and detail of the data available on demand for higher education. In 2009, DEEWR published a detailed report based on the first unit record data collection on applications and offers processed through the state Tertiary Admissions Centres (TACs). The 2011 report updates this analysis with the latest year of data from TACs, and data on applications submitted directly to universities.

### *Total applications*

Demand for domestic, undergraduate university places as indicated by applications received through TACs has shown a modest increase.

When the 2010-11 end of year admissions cycle was complete (18 May 2011) there were a total of 271 117 applications. This is an increase of 1.5% (or 4121 applications) following on from a 6.9% increase between 2009 and 2010.

In 2011, there were 211 654 offers. This is an increase of 3.3% (or 6860) on 2010. Though the number of offers was modest, the offer rate increased to 78.1% - an increase of 1.4 percentage points on the offer rate recorded in 2010. The offer rate provides an indicator of the way which universities choose to respond to student demand. This represents a key indicator as universities transition to the introduction of the demand driven system from 2012.

Across Australia, just over half of all applicants (50.7%) received an offer for their highest preference course and 151 008 applicants accepted an offer (note data here refers to applications, but for sake of convenience these are described as applicants). This was a marginal increase of 1.2% in acceptances on the level reported in 2010.

Of all applicants receiving offers 22 063 or 10.4% deferred their offer. The number of deferrals in 2011 was 0.4 percentage points lower than recorded in 2010.

Combining direct and TAC applicants gives a total of 316 504 applicants. Direct applicants made up 21.8% of total applicants. Note, data presented here refers to applicants rather than applications. Since very few direct applicants make multiple applications, this appears the more relevant concept.

### *Unmet demand*

The raw number of applications without a corresponding offer does not provide a meaningful estimate of unmet demand for higher education. Raw figures are therefore discounted to take account of double counting of interstate applicants, applications with only one or two preferences and rejection of offers. The methodology for estimating unmet demand was developed by Universities Australia (UA) in 2005.

In 2011 unmet demand was estimated to be 7.8% of eligible applicants, a drop of 0.4 percentage points from 2010. This equates to around 19 400 applicants after discounting. This small decrease in unmet demand was largely a result of the modest growth in the number of applications (1.5%) and relatively higher growth (3.3%) in offers.

## *Field of education*

The most popular broad field of education was Health which attracted 67 040 applications. The Health field includes Medical Studies, Dental Studies, Veterinary Studies and Nursing as well as a range of other courses such as Pharmacy, Physiotherapy and Optometry. The field of Society and Culture was second with 55 859 applications. This field includes Political Studies, Sociology, Law, Language Studies and Economics.

Demand for Education courses decreased by 3.6% in 2011 following strong growth in 2010 (8.0%). This followed four straight years of decline from 2006 to 2009. Demand for Nursing courses decreased by 2.2% in 2011, following strong growth in 2010 (20.0%). Despite the relatively small decreases in 2011, applications for Nursing and Education courses are higher than 2009 levels. The net growth in applications follows measures introduced in the 2009-10 Budget, including increased student contributions for Nursing and Education in order to support expanded course provision and lower Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) debt repayments for those working in related professions.

Data on the number of applications for Early Childhood courses are not available prior to 2009. In 2011, applications for Early Childhood Education decreased by 6.1% compared with 2010. Nevertheless, applications for Early Childhood courses were higher in 2011 than in 2009. The 3725 applications for Early Childhood Education in 2011, represented 15.7% of all applications for Education courses.

Demand for Medical Studies increased by 11.5% in 2011 following a strong increase in 2010 (13.3%). There was a decline in applications for Medical Studies during the 2007 to 2009 period. Growth in Natural and Physical Sciences applications slowed to 8.7% in 2011 following growth of 12.6% in 2010 and 17.1% in 2009. Following strong growth in mining and construction industries in recent years, Engineering recorded an increase in demand (3.7%). The 2011 year was the sixth year in succession in which applications for Engineering grew.

## *2010 Year 12 students*

Of total applications, 143 907 or 53.1% were from Year 12 students. Applications from current Year 12 students increased by 4.6% compared with the previous year. Increases were concentrated at the higher end of the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) distribution. The offer rate for current Year 12 applicants was 80.4%. The probability of receiving an offer of a place declined as the ATAR declined.

## *Under-represented groups – Regional students*

Metropolitan students were over-represented in the pool of applications. Around three quarters of applications (76.6%) came from metropolitan areas, slightly higher than the metropolitan population share of 71.4%. Just over one fifth of applications (20.8%) were from regional areas, less than their population share of 26.3%. Only 1.1% of applications were from remote areas compared to their population share of 2.1%.

Offers and acceptances varied by region. Regional and remote applicants (applications) were somewhat more likely to receive an offer than metropolitan applicants: 82.0% of remote applicants and 81.6% of regional applicants received offers, in comparison with 77.4% of metropolitan applicants. Metropolitan applicants were, however, more likely to accept an offer (82.4%) than regional (80.6%) or remote applicants (81.7%).

Applications from regional and remote applicants remain under-represented. Their numbers remained flat in 2011 with 0.1% growth. Applications from metropolitan areas grew by 0.8%. Offers for metropolitan applicants grew at a faster rate (3.7%) than for non-metropolitan applicants (1.9%).

Applications by field of education show metropolitan and non-metropolitan students exhibited different preferences. Non-metropolitan students are more likely to apply for courses in national priority areas such as Education and Nursing. They are also more likely to apply for Agriculture, Environmental and Related Studies courses.

### *Under-represented groups – Low SES students*

Socioeconomic status (SES) of applicants is defined by postcode of permanent home residence. Postcodes are divided into quartiles. High SES applicants (applications) were over-represented in the pool of applicants. By definition, persons from high SES backgrounds represent 25.0% of the general population; however they represent 30.6% of the total pool of applicants. Persons from low SES backgrounds were, on the other hand, under-represented. In 2011, 18.6% of all applicants were from low SES backgrounds, which was marginally higher than the 2010 figure of 18.5%.

Offer rates vary by SES in a similar fashion to applications although the differences are not as marked. High SES applicants were the most successful with 80.2% of these applicants receiving an offer. Medium SES applications were slightly less successful (78.0% received an offer) and low SES applicants were the least successful (76.2% of low SES applicants received an offer). There was little difference in acceptance rates by SES.

The under-representation of persons from low SES backgrounds at university, like regional and remote students, is more related to their lower likelihood of applying for university than their likelihood of receiving an offer.

Although low SES people remain under-represented among applicants, their numbers grew faster in 2011 than applicants in other SES categories. Low SES applicants increased by 2.4% compared with 1.6% for medium SES applicants and 0.6% for high SES applicants. Similarly, offers to low SES applicants increased by 4.5%, compared to 3.6% for medium and 1.9% for high SES applicants.

Preferences by field of education vary by SES. Low SES students are more likely to apply for courses in the national priority areas of Nursing and Education and less likely to apply for courses with high cut-off scores, such as Medical Studies and Law.

### *Under-represented groups – Indigenous students*

Indigenous people are under-represented in the pool of applications. Indigenous people represent around 2.5% of the Australian population whereas they constitute only 1.1% of all applications to university.

The offer rate for Indigenous applicants was 73.8% - 4.3 percentage points lower than the offer rate for persons who did not identify as Indigenous. Acceptance rates, on the other hand, were very similar.

Though Indigenous people remain under-represented at university and growth in applications marginally dropped in 2011, the increase in offers is encouraging. Compared with 2010, the number of applications by Indigenous applicants decreased by 51 applicants. However, offers to Indigenous applicants increased by more than 100.

Preferences by field of education vary between Indigenous and non-Indigenous applicants. Indigenous applicants are more likely to apply for courses in the national priority areas of Education and Health and less likely to apply for Management and Commerce courses.

### *Direct applicants*

This report also includes data on applications made directly to universities (in addition to those processed through TACs). There were 68 880 direct applicants over the main admissions round for first semester 2011 (direct applicants are less likely to make multiple applications and hence the focus at this points on applicants rather than applications). Of these direct applicants 55 196 were offered a place. The offer rate for direct applicants was 80.1%. Of a total of 55 196 offers made, 41 772 were accepted (75.7%). Only 1873 (3.7%) were deferred.

Compared to TAC applicants, direct applicants were much less likely to be current Year 12 students and were correspondingly more likely to be older. Female and Indigenous applicants made up a larger share of direct applicants than TAC applicants. There was not much difference between the TAC and Direct applicants by SES or region.

Of the 316,504 persons that made applications to TACs and direct to universities, 14,032 of these applied through both TACs and directly to universities meaning that there were 302, 472 unique applicants. The number of unique applicants increased by 2.9 per cent in 2011. Low SES applicants increased by 3.6 per cent in comparison with 2.9 per cent for medium SES applicants and 1.8 per cent for high SES applicants. Females represent 58.7 per cent and non-Year 12 represent 57.5 per cent of all applicants. Fields of education showing strong increases in applications in 2011 included medical studies and engineering, up 7.5 per cent and 7.0 per cent respectively.

### *Factors affecting future demand*

Demand for higher education is affected by a number of factors. These include demographic changes, post-compulsory schooling pathways, labour market conditions and policy settings.

### *Policy changes in higher education*

The Australian Government announced its response to the Bradley Review of Higher Education in March 2009. The Government adopted ambitious targets and a range of measures to support increased participation. In particular, targets for increased higher education attainment and increased participation by under-represented groups, together with the introduction of a demand driven funding system from 2012, are likely to have an impact on the demand for and supply of university places. In the transition to a demand driven funding system, the cap on over enrolments has been lifted from 5% in 2009 to 10% in 2010 and 2011.

The demand-driven system will enable a closer match between demand and supply and a more flexible and responsive allocation of university places. Data from 2011 give a preliminary indication of growth in both demand for and supply of higher education and the manner in which universities are managing the transition to the demand driven funding system. Increases in applications in 2011 were modest following a historically large increase in 2010. Strong growth in offers in 2010 has been followed by moderate growth in 2011.

### *Transitions from school and VET*

Policy changes at the school level could have a significant impact on demand for university. The Australian Government and state and territory governments have committed through the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) to increasing the Year 12 retention rate to 90% by 2015. Increasing the Year 12 retention rate will increase the size of the pool of potential applicants to university.

The number of Year 12 students who choose to go on to university will reflect the options available to young people after leaving school. Some may prefer to attend vocational education and training (VET).

Post-school education and training also provides a further pathway into higher education. In 2011, 17.1% of applicants had undertaken prior VET study and 8.8% of offers were made on the basis of completion of a VET award course (other than a secondary education course undertaken at a VET institution). Both of these figures were slight increases from 2010.

## 2. Introduction

### *Purpose of the report*

This report looks at the number of applications for undergraduate university places in the first main intake (first semester) of the 2011 academic year, the number of applicants who received offers and the number who accepted offers. These items are key indicators of the level of demand for university education. This report analyses applications and offers data by state and territory, basis of application, field of education, applicants' prior educational participation and demographic characteristics such as SES, regionality and Indigenous status.

The *2011 Undergraduate Applications, Offers and Acceptances* report includes a detailed analysis of TAC applications data, updating the figures presented in the 2010 report. The 2011 publication also includes analysis of direct applications, and a comparison of both sets of data (TAC and direct applications). Combining TAC and direct applications data in this way enables a more comprehensive estimate of the total demand for undergraduate university places to be made.

### *Overview of the data*

Data is derived from the University Applications and Offers Data Collection. The data covers the main annual university admissions process (for first semester admissions) that runs from August to June each year. In 2011, the data collection included information on direct applications to universities. The data collection is for domestic applications only.

TACs processed around 78% of applications made during the August 2010 to May 2011 admissions process, while about 22% of all applicants applied directly to universities. TACs process the overwhelming majority of applications from school leavers, with only 3.5% of direct applications being made by current Year 12 students. Overall, nearly half of TAC applications are from non-Year 12 applicants and most direct applications were from applicants aged over 20.

A small proportion of applicants make applications to more than one TAC resulting in some double counting of applications across state boundaries. About 14.1% of TAC applications are duplicates of this kind. A relatively small number of direct applicants (less than 6.4% of the total) apply to more than one university.

### *Acknowledgements*

DEEWR would like to acknowledge the invaluable contribution of higher education sector stakeholders to improving the available information on university applications and offers. DEEWR would also like to thank all those officers of TACs and universities who were involved in developing the national data collection. Their ongoing expert advice and assistance was indispensable to this project. Finally, DEEWR would like to thank all TACs and universities for submitting high quality data over the 2010-11 admissions cycle.

### 3. Applications to Tertiary Admission Centres (TACs)

#### *Total number of applications*

The number of domestic applications made through TACs for undergraduate university places during the main annual admissions process is a key indicator of the demand for higher education.

When the admissions cycle for the 2011 year was completed (18 May) there were a total of 271 117 applications made through TACs. This is a 1.5% increase compared to 2010 and follows a 6.9% increase in 2010.

Application numbers grew across the admissions cycle. Table 1 shows the number of applications recorded at preliminary and final stages of the 2010-11 admissions cycle in each state and territory.

**Table 1: Applications throughout the 2010-11 admissions cycle, by state and territory**

State	October 2010	January 2011	February 2011	May 2011
NSW/ACT	70,876	83,405	83,405	84,462
Vic.	61,326	73,438	73,438	74,521
Qld	41,168	54,921	54,982	56,077
WA	17,486	20,425	20,425	20,558
SA/NT	19,401	24,303	24,633	24,940
Tas.	6,675	8,624	8,624	10,559
<b>Australia</b>	<b>216,932</b>	<b>265,116</b>	<b>265,507</b>	<b>271,117</b>

Between October 2010 and May 2011 the number of applications increased by 25.0%. Growth after February was limited, with the exception of Tasmania, where applications numbers continued to grow strongly in February and March. This pattern is similar to the pattern observed in 2010.

#### *Applications by state and territory*

Applications grew in all states and territories, except for Queensland and Western Australia. Table 2 shows the year-on-year percentage changes. Tasmania experienced the highest growth of 9.6%.

**Table 2: Annual change in total applications by state and territory, 2010 and 2011**

State	2010	2011	% Change
NSW/ACT	83,108	84,462	1.6%
Vic.	71,984	74,521	3.5%
Qld	57,205	56,077	-2.0%
WA	20,834	20,558	-1.3%
SA/NT	24,235	24,940	2.9%
Tas.	9,630	10,559	9.6%
<b>Australia</b>	<b>266,996</b>	<b>271,117</b>	<b>1.5%</b>

Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory recorded growth well above the national average. Growth in New South Wales/Australian Capital Territory was marginally

higher than the national average. In Western Australia, applications through the Tertiary Institution Service Centre (TISC) for university places fell by 1.3 per cent. However, direct applications to Western Australian universities increased by 1.8 per cent in 2011. This is mainly due to some Western Australian Universities opening up a range of alternative entry pathways in response to recent changes to the WA secondary curriculum framework for Years 11 and 12's and the expansion of early offers to students. In addition, the University of Notre Dame is a non-participant in TISC and all its applications are made directly. The University of Notre Dame increased its share of all Western Australia applications from 5.4 per cent in 2010 to 7.4 per cent in 2011. The impact of this and other factors outlined above have led to a decline in the proportion of applications being made through TISC.

### *Eligible applications*

Total application numbers are not available prior to 2008; only eligible application data are available. Hence, time series data are based on eligible applications statistics.

An eligible application is a concept developed as part of a methodology developed by UA for estimating unmet demand for university places. Eligible applications exclude applications by those applicants who apply on the basis of a Year 12 qualification obtained in the current or previous year with an ATAR below an agreed benchmark. The benchmark is intended to represent a score below which an applicant would be unlikely to be offered a place in any bachelor degree course at a public university. It is set at the ATAR score corresponding to the bottom end of a Queensland Overall Position (OP) of 18. This ATAR score fluctuates slightly from year to year and in 2011 it was 54.95. Applications by all applicants who apply on a basis other than recent Year 12 qualifications are included as eligible applications, since there is no obvious benchmark that can be applied consistently to exclude applicants applying on a basis other than recent Year 12 qualifications.

It is important to note that eligibility, according to the above definition, is not directly relevant to the admissions process, and that ineligible applicants may receive offers.

Table 3 shows that there were 246 987 eligible applications in 2011, 91.1% of all applications, a similar proportion as in 2010. Eligible applications are up by 1.5% on 2010 figures. This follows a sharp increase of 7.0% in eligible applications in 2010.

In New South Wales/Australian Capital Territory, Victoria, South Australia/ Northern Territory and Tasmania, eligible applications in 2011 were at the highest level in the series. In Queensland and Western Australia, eligible applications decreased slightly this year but remain marginally below peak levels observed in early years.

**Table 3: Eligible applications by state and territory, 2002-2011**

State	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
NSW/ACT	69,336	71,467	71,467	67,778	67,781	68,769	69,073	73,299	75,218	76,935
Vic.	59,785	61,649	60,312	58,907	51,778	54,957	52,476	59,358	62,825	64,292
Qld	54,645	55,350	54,155	49,759	52,039	46,880	46,822	48,696	54,199	53,299
WA	17,139	18,746	20,232	19,706	18,172	17,658	17,208	17,403	19,177	19,153
SA/NT	15,359	15,577	15,442	19,704	22,810	23,165	22,915	19,978	22,800	23,275
Tas.	6,464	6,638	6,806	5,734	5,949	7,108	7,640	8,674	9,030	10,033
<b>Australia</b>	<b>222,728</b>	<b>229,427</b>	<b>228,414</b>	<b>221,588</b>	<b>218,529</b>	<b>218,537</b>	<b>216 134</b>	<b>227,408</b>	<b>243,249</b>	<b>246,987</b>

Note: There is a break in the series in 2009 due to the establishment of the unit record data collection. Figures for earlier years are derived from aggregated data.

### *Prior educational participation*

Of the total applications in 2011, 143 907 applications or 53.1% were from current Year 12 applicants. Applications by non-Year 12 applicants represent 46.9% of total applications. As can be seen in Table 4, applications by current Year 12 applicants represent the larger proportion of applications in New South Wales/Australian Capital Territory, Victoria and Western Australia but the reverse is true in Queensland, South Australia/ Northern Territory and Tasmania. This pattern is similar to the pattern observed in 2010. In Tasmania, applications by Non-Year 12 applicants represent more than two thirds of total applications.

**Table 4: Current Year 12 status by state and territory, 2011**

State	Current Year 12	Non-Year 12
NSW/ACT	46,890	37,572
Vic.	43,138	31,383
Qld	26,660	29,417
WA	12,369	8,189
SA/NT	11,416	13,524
Tas.	3,434	7,125
<b>Australia</b>	<b>143,907</b>	<b>127,210</b>

Table 5 shows that 46 358 (17.1%) applications were from applicants with prior VET participation. Further, 64 999 (24.0%) applications were from applicants with prior university participation. It should be noted that these categories are not mutually exclusive.

**Table 5: Prior VET and university participation by state and territory, 2011**

State	Prior VET	Prior University
NSW/ACT	12,600	19,193
Vic.	13,884	15,547
Qld	9,751	17,526
WA	3,390	3,916
SA/NT	4,297	5,396
Tas.	2,436	3,421
<b>Australia</b>	<b>46,358</b>	<b>64,999</b>

Among non-Year 12 applications (Table 6), 38% were from applicants who had previously attempted higher education without obtaining a qualification whereas 10.6% were from applicants who had completed a bachelor or postgraduate degree and 12.8% had completed a VET qualification. More than a quarter of non-Year 12 applications (26.6%) were from applicants who gave completed secondary education as their highest prior educational participation.

**Table 6: Highest prior educational participation, non-Year 12 applicants 2011**

Highest prior educational participation	Frequency	Per cent
Complete postgraduate	2,448	1.9%
Complete bachelor	11,075	8.7%
Complete sub-degree	3,261	2.6%
Incomplete higher education	48,358	38.0%
Complete VET	16,333	12.8%
Incomplete VET	3,705	2.9%
Complete secondary education	33,802	26.6%
Other qual - complete or incomplete	4,147	3.3%
No prior education attainment	4,081	3.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>127,210</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### Gender

Applications by females represented more than half (58.3%) of total applications. This is consistent with university enrolments data for 2010 which shows that females accounted for 58.9% of commencing domestic students<sup>1</sup>.

### Age

The median age of applicants submitting applications was 18 years. This was also the modal age, accounting for just over one third of the applicants. Overall, 27.4% of applications were made by applicants aged 21 or over, and 9.9% were from applicants aged 29 or over.

Two thirds of applications were made by 17-19 year olds and 17.9% by 20-24 year olds (Table 7). Fewer applications (15.3%) were made by those aged 25 or more. There were 1017 applications (0.4% of the total) submitted by persons who were aged 16 or younger. In contrast to other states and territories (Table 7), Tasmania had a large number of applications made by those in the 25 and over age group (29.7%) and the 20-24 age group (20.1%). Western Australia had the highest number of applications (74.6%) by those in 17-19 age group, well above the national average of 66.5%. Applications by those aged 25 and over also made up a relatively large share of applications in South Australia/Northern Territory (21.8%) and Queensland (18.9%).

**Table 7: Applications by state and territory and age group, 2011**

State	16 and under	17-19	20-24	25 and over	Total
NSW/ACT	136	58,750	14,984	10,592	84,462
Vic.	127	50,716	14,481	9,197	74,521
Qld	283	35,370	9,841	10,583	56,077
WA	108	15,343	2,637	2,470	20,558
SA/NT	90	15,049	4,368	5,433	24,940
Tas.	273	5,034	2,120	3,132	10,559
<b>Australia</b>	<b>1,017</b>	<b>180,262</b>	<b>48,431</b>	<b>41,407</b>	<b>271,117</b>

<sup>1</sup> DEEWR (2010), Selected Higher Education Statistics: Students

## Interstate applications

The bulk of applicants apply to study in their home state (Table 8). In 2011, some 233 901 applicants (86.3%) applied to courses in their home state. Interstate applicants are identified by Year 12 qualification or permanent home address. For current Year 12 applicants, those defined as an interstate applicant obtained their Year 12 qualification from a state or territory outside the jurisdiction of the TAC to which they applied. For non-Year 12 applicants, those defined as an interstate applicant have a permanent home address that is not within a state or territory in the jurisdiction of the TAC to which they applied.

In 2011, 37 216 interstate applications were recorded nationally, many of these applicants also applied in their home state.

Applications from interstate ranged from a low of 9.2% in New South Wales/Australian Capital Territory to a high of 35.6% in Tasmania. Interstate applications to Tasmania have been very high for several years.

**Table 8: Home state and interstate applications, by state and territory, 2011**

State	Home state	Interstate	% Interstate
NSW/ACT	76,724	7,738	9.2%
Vic.	65,821	8,700	11.7%
Qld	46,773	9,304	16.6%
WA	17,931	2,627	12.8%
SA/NT	19,857	5,083	20.4%
Tas.	6,795	3,764	35.6%
<b>Australia</b>	<b>233,901</b>	<b>37,216</b>	<b>13.7%</b>

Non-metropolitan applicants (that is, regional and remote applicants) were more likely to apply interstate (18.4% of applications compared with 10.7% of metropolitan applications) consistent with their greater overall mobility and need to move to attend university. There was much less difference in interstate application rates according to socioeconomic or Indigenous status.

Current Year 12 students were slightly less likely than other applicants to apply interstate (12.7% compared to 14.9%).

Propensity to apply interstate appears to be positively related to Year 12 achievement. Only a small proportion of applications by current Year 12 applicants with an ATAR of 80 or less applied interstate (6.5%), rising to 10.7% for applications for those applicants with an ATAR between 80.05 and 90.00 and jumping to 26.5% for applications for applicants in the highest ATAR band (90.05 or more).

These figures are consistent with interstate applicants' focus on a limited number of high demand courses. Examining interstate applications by field of education shows that Medical Studies, Dental Studies and Veterinary Studies were strongly over-represented. Just over one eighth (12.6%) of all interstate applications have a highest ranking preference for a Medical Studies course. By contrast, highest ranking preferences for Medical Studies account for only 0.8% of home state applications.

Table 9 shows the proportions of home state and interstate applications by field of education. Interstate applications constitute more than two thirds of all applications for Medical Studies. Of 12 752 highest ranking preferences for Medical Studies, 8 275 (64.9%) were interstate applications. Similarly, Dental Studies and Veterinary Studies also attracted a high proportion of interstate applications (48.2% and 40.1%, respectively), though the absolute numbers of interstate applications are considerably smaller than for Medical Studies. Interstate applications constitute less than 10.0% of applications in all other fields of education. Interestingly, only 11.3% of applications for law courses were from interstate even though law is a high demand course.

**Table 9: Proportion of home state/interstate applications for each field of education, 2011**

Field of education	Home state	Interstate
Natural and Physical Sciences	84.8%	15.2%
Information Technology	94.4%	5.6%
Engineering and Related Technologies	86.6%	13.4%
Architecture and Building	91.4%	8.6%
Agriculture, Environmental and Related Studies	87.0%	13.0%
Health	74.2%	25.8%
<i>Medical studies</i>	35.1%	64.9%
<i>Dental Studies</i>	51.8%	48.2%
<i>Veterinary Studies</i>	59.9%	40.1%
<i>Nursing</i>	87.3%	12.7%
<i>Health other</i>	87.0%	13.0%
Education	93.9%	6.1%
<i>Teacher Education</i>	93.8%	6.2%
Management and Commerce	92.1%	7.9%
Society and Culture	90.2%	9.8%
<i>Society and Culture excl Law</i>	90.5%	9.5%
<i>Law</i>	88.7%	11.3%
Creative Arts	89.9%	10.1%
Mixed Field Programs	97.3%	2.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>86.3%</b>	<b>13.7%</b>

Using only state of permanent home residency to define home state, Table 10 shows that for the large majority of applicants, their highest preference application was at a university in their home state. The proportion of applicants with residency in Queensland had the highest ranking preference for a place in their state (88.6%), followed by Western Australia (87.7%) and South Australia (86.7%). In New South Wales and Tasmania the highest ranking preference for a place in their state was around 80%. Persons residing in the Northern Territory and Australian Capital Territory are more likely to apply interstate.

**Table 10: State and territory of application by state and territory of permanent home residence, 2011**

	State of permanent home residence							
	NSW	Vic.	Qld	WA	SA	Tas.	ACT	NT
<b>State of university of highest preference</b>								
NSW	80.8%	3.3%	3.9%	2.6%	2.7%	3.8%	16.4%	7.4%
Vic.	3.8%	83.5%	2.5%	4.1%	3.8%	9.3%	11.4%	11.5%
Qld	5.8%	2.5%	88.6%	2.2%	2.5%	3.9%	7.3%	16.5%
WA	0.8%	1.0%	0.6%	87.7%	1.2%	0.9%	1.4%	4.9%
SA	1.3%	2.4%	0.6%	1.0%	86.7%	1.9%	2.6%	15.4%
Tas.	1.8%	1.7%	0.8%	0.9%	0.8%	78.9%	1.7%	1.2%
ACT	2.3%	0.7%	0.3%	0.5%	0.4%	1.0%	55.6%	2.2%
NT	0.3%	0.5%	0.4%	1.0%	1.8%	0.3%	0.4%	40.8%
Multi-State	3.2%	4.4%	2.3%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	3.2%	0.2%

### *Applicants with few preferences*

In 2011, some 41 873 applications (15.4% of the total) were from applicants who expressed only one preference on their application and 71 307 (26.3% of the total) of applications included fewer than three preferences. Applicants (applications) with few preferences were more likely to be aged 25 and over and not current Year 12 students.

**Table 11: Proportion of number of preferences by age group, 2011**

Number of Preferences	16 and under	17 to 19	20 to 24	25 and over	Total
3 or more Preferences	67.7%	84.5%	60.2%	42.9%	73.7%
Less than 3 Preferences	32.3%	15.5%	39.8%	57.1%	26.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,017</b>	<b>180,262</b>	<b>48,431</b>	<b>41,407</b>	<b>271,117</b>

A clear majority of applications from applicants aged 25 and over (57.1%) had only one or two preferences, compared to only 15.5% in the 17-19 year old age group (Table 11). Among 20-24 year old applicants, 39.8% had only one or two preferences.

**Table 12: Proportion of number of preferences by Current year 12 status, 2011**

Number of Preferences	Non Year 12	Year 12	Total
3 or more Preferences	54.4%	90.7%	73.7%
Less than 3 Preferences	45.6%	9.3%	26.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Table 12 shows that a small minority (9.3%) of applications from current Year 12 applicants had fewer than three preferences, compared to 45.6% of Non Year 12 applications.

This suggests applicants with few preferences were more likely to be older applicants seeking to gain a particular qualification or wishing to study a particular course of interest. These applicants may have had more limited options for mobility to take up an offer. On the other hand, the propensity of current Year 12 applicants to have more than three preferences reflects a greater willingness to apply for a range of courses and/or universities, perhaps as a means of entering the university education system. Applicants' number and mix of preferences also reflects the fact that, for many applicants, university education is only one option among several.

## 4. Offers

### *Total number of offers*

There were 211 654 offers made in 2011. This was a 3.3% increase on the number of offers in 2010. More than three quarters of applicants (applications) (78.1%) received an offer, which is 1.4 percentage points higher than the offer rate in 2010.

### *Offers by state and territory*

The number of applicants receiving offers in 2011 rose in all states and territories except Western Australia (down 1.4%, Table 13). The biggest increases were in Tasmania (10.2%) and Victoria (6.7%).

Offer rates varied from 73.4% in Victoria to 81.9% in New South Wales/Australian Capital Territory. While the Victorian offer rate was the lowest out of all states and territories, it has increased compared with recent years. Offer rates fell by 0.9 percentage points in South Australia/Northern Territory.

**Table 13: Offers and offer rates by state and territory, 2010 and 2011**

State	Receiving offer			Offer rate		
	2010	2011	% Change	2010	2011	Change (p.p.)
NSW/ACT	67,232	69,152	2.9%	80.9%	81.9%	1.0
Vic.	51,258	54,715	6.7%	71.2%	73.4%	2.2
Qld	42,738	43,392	1.5%	74.7%	77.4%	2.7
WA	17,045	16,812	-1.4%	81.8%	81.8%	0.0
SA/NT	19,323	19,654	1.7%	79.7%	78.8%	-0.9
Tas.	7,198	7,929	10.2%	74.7%	75.1%	0.4
<b>Australia</b>	<b>204,794</b>	<b>211,654</b>	<b>3.3%</b>	<b>76.7%</b>	<b>78.1%</b>	<b>1.4</b>

In 2010, the Victorian TAC (VTAC) made supplementary offers for a large number of applications (3893). These offers are included in the above table. A supplementary offer is an offer of a place in a course for which there was no expressed preference in the application. Other TACs do not make supplementary offers.

### *Offers to eligible applicants*

The number of eligible applicants (applications) that received offers in 2011 was 203 966. This was an increase of 3.4% on 2010. Following the decreases in the proportion of eligible applicants who received an offer in the last four years (from 85.1% in 2007 to 81.1% in 2010), it increased to 82.6% in 2011. The 2011 offer rate was also well above levels observed in 2002-2004 (in the low to mid 70s) and slightly higher than 2001 (the first year of the series). Table 14 shows times series data on offers to eligible applicants by state and territory.

**Table 14: Offers to eligible applicants by state and territory, 2002-2011**

State	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
NSW/ACT	54,180	53,797	51,603	56,522	58,213	60,082	60,462	62,525	64,350	66,563
Vic.	38,153	38,118	37,961	41,457	41,310	43,140	41,804	45,307	49,394	52,473
Qld	42,689	40,588	40,993	42,775	44,947	41,561	40,927	39,008	41,486	41,926
WA	14,703	15,380	16,093	16,534	15,823	15,639	15,142	14,938	16,523	16,413
SA/NT	13,429	12,759	12,577	16,479	19,222	19,551	19,238	16,935	18,694	19,038
Tas.	5,649	5,667	5,858	5,087	5,354	5,925	5,588	6,601	6,721	7,553
<b>Australia</b>	<b>168,803</b>	<b>166,309</b>	<b>165,085</b>	<b>178,854</b>	<b>184,869</b>	<b>185,898</b>	<b>183,161</b>	<b>185,314</b>	<b>197,168</b>	<b>203,966</b>

### *Prior educational participation*

Current Year 12 applicants (applications) were more likely to receive an offer than non-Year 12 applicants with 115 770 current Year 12 applicants receiving an offer, an offer rate of 80.4% (Table 15). For applications made by non-Year 12 applicants, the offer rate was 75.4%. Current Year 12 offer rates were higher than the non-Year 12 offer rates in all states and territories except Tasmania.

**Table 15: Offers and offer rates by current Year 12 status and state and territory, 2011**

State	Receiving offer		Offer rate	
	Current Year 12	Non-Year 12	Current Year 12	Non-Year 12
NSW/ACT	39,828	29,324	84.9%	78.0%
Vic.	32,028	22,687	74.2%	72.3%
Qld	21,670	21,722	81.3%	73.8%
WA	10,452	6,360	84.5%	77.7%
SA/NT	9,294	10,360	81.4%	76.6%
Tas.	2,498	5,431	72.7%	76.2%
<b>Australia</b>	<b>115,770</b>	<b>95,884</b>	<b>80.4%</b>	<b>75.4%</b>

As can be seen in Table 16, applicants who had previously participated in VET or university were slightly less likely to receive an offer than the average offer rate of 78.1%. Just over three-quarters (76.8%) of applicants with prior VET were offered a place. This was marginally lower than the figure for applicants with prior university education (77.7%). It should be noted that categories of applicant by prior VET or university participation are not mutually exclusive.

**Table 16: Offers and offer rates by prior VET or university participation and state and territory, 2011**

State	Receiving Offer		Offer Rate	
	Prior VET	Prior university	Prior VET	Prior university
NSW/ACT	10,376	14,630	82.3%	76.2%
Vic.	9,805	12,859	70.6%	82.7%
Qld	7,505	13,600	77.0%	77.6%
WA	2,679	2,950	79.0%	75.3%
SA/NT	3,452	3,987	80.3%	73.9%
Tas.	1,782	2,500	73.2%	73.1%
<b>Australia</b>	<b>35,599</b>	<b>50,526</b>	<b>76.8%</b>	<b>77.7%</b>

## Gender

Female applicants (applications) were more likely to receive an offer than male applicants (Table 17), though the difference was only slight with 78.7% of female applicants being offered a place compared to 77.1% of male applicants. The gap was wider in Queensland at 2.6 percentage points and New South Wales/Australian Capital Territory at 2.1 percentage points. In Tasmania, on the other hand, a greater proportion of male applicants were offered a place than female applicants and the difference was 1.8 percentage points.

**Table 17: Offers and offer rates by gender and state and territory, 2011**

State	Receiving offer		Offer rate	
	Male applicants	Female applicants	Male applicants	Female applicants
NSW/ACT	29,436	39,716	80.7%	82.8%
Vic.	22,718	31,997	72.7%	74.0%
Qld	17,131	26,261	75.8%	78.4%
WA	7,115	9,697	81.2%	82.2%
SA/NT	7,560	12,094	78.0%	79.3%
Tas.	3,239	4,690	76.2%	74.4%
<b>Australia</b>	<b>87,199</b>	<b>124,455</b>	<b>77.1%</b>	<b>78.7%</b>

## Age

Not surprisingly, offer rates to applicants (applications) in the 17-19 year-old age cohort were very similar to offers to current Year 12 applicants. Of the applicants aged 17-19, 144 091 (or 79.9%) received an offer. For current Year 12 students, the offer rate was 80.4%. Offer rates were lower for applicants in the 20-24 age group (73.1%) and 25 and over age group (75.5%).

Of the small number of applications (1017) from applicants aged 16 or less, 896 received an offer, leading to a high offer rate of 88.1%. This high offer rate is not surprising as most of this group of young applicants are likely to be high academic achievers.

Offer rates in most states and territories followed the national pattern by age group. Table 18 shows that in general the highest offer rates were recorded for 16 and under, followed by 17-19 year olds and then 25 and over, with the 20-24 group recording the lowest offer rates. In Victoria, however, applicants aged 20-24 were more likely (72.7%) to receive an offer than applicants from the 25 and over age group (68.1%).

**Table 18: Offers and offer rates by age group and state and territory, 2011**

State	Receiving offer				Offer rate			
	16 and under	17-19	20-24	25 and over	16 and under	17-19	20-24	25 and over
NSW/ACT	112	49,502	11,377	8,161	82.4%	84.3%	75.9%	77.0%
Vic.	104	37,825	10,526	6,260	81.9%	74.6%	72.7%	68.1%
Qld	249	28,045	6869	8,229	88.0%	79.3%	69.8%	77.8%
WA	97	12,768	1,966	1,981	89.8%	83.2%	74.6%	80.2%
SA/NT	78	12,204	3,108	4,264	86.7%	81.1%	71.2%	78.5%
Tas.	256	3,747	1,576	2,350	93.8%	74.4%	74.3%	75.0%
<b>Australia</b>	<b>896</b>	<b>144,091</b>	<b>35,422</b>	<b>31,245</b>	<b>88.1%</b>	<b>79.9%</b>	<b>73.1%</b>	<b>75.5%</b>

### *Interstate applicants*

Home state applicants (applications) were more likely to receive an offer than interstate applicants. This was consistent with the profile of interstate applications which were mostly for high demand courses with high admissions standards, such as Medical Studies, Dental Studies and Veterinary Studies (as discussed above on page 11).

Just over four out of five (80.2%), or 187 550 home state applicants were offered a place compared with 24 104 interstate applicants (64.7%), a difference of 15.5 percentage points (Table 19).

This pattern is broadly consistent across states and territories, although the size of the gap between home state and interstate offer rates differs. The difference was 39.9 percentage points in Tasmania and 37.9 percentage points in Western Australia. Victoria is the only state with a higher offer rate for interstate applicants (74.4%) than home state applicants (73.3%).

**Table 19: Offers and offer rates by home state/interstate and state and territory, 2011**

State	Receiving offer		Offer rate	
	Home state	Interstate	Home state	Interstate
NSW/ACT	63,975	5,177	83.4%	66.9%
Vic.	48,236	6,479	73.3%	74.4%
Qld	37,294	6,098	79.7%	65.5%
WA	15,531	1,281	86.6%	48.8%
SA/NT	16,444	3,210	82.8%	63.2%
Tas.	6,070	1,859	89.3%	49.4%
<b>Australia</b>	<b>187,550</b>	<b>24,104</b>	<b>80.2%</b>	<b>64.7%</b>

### *Offers by preference order*

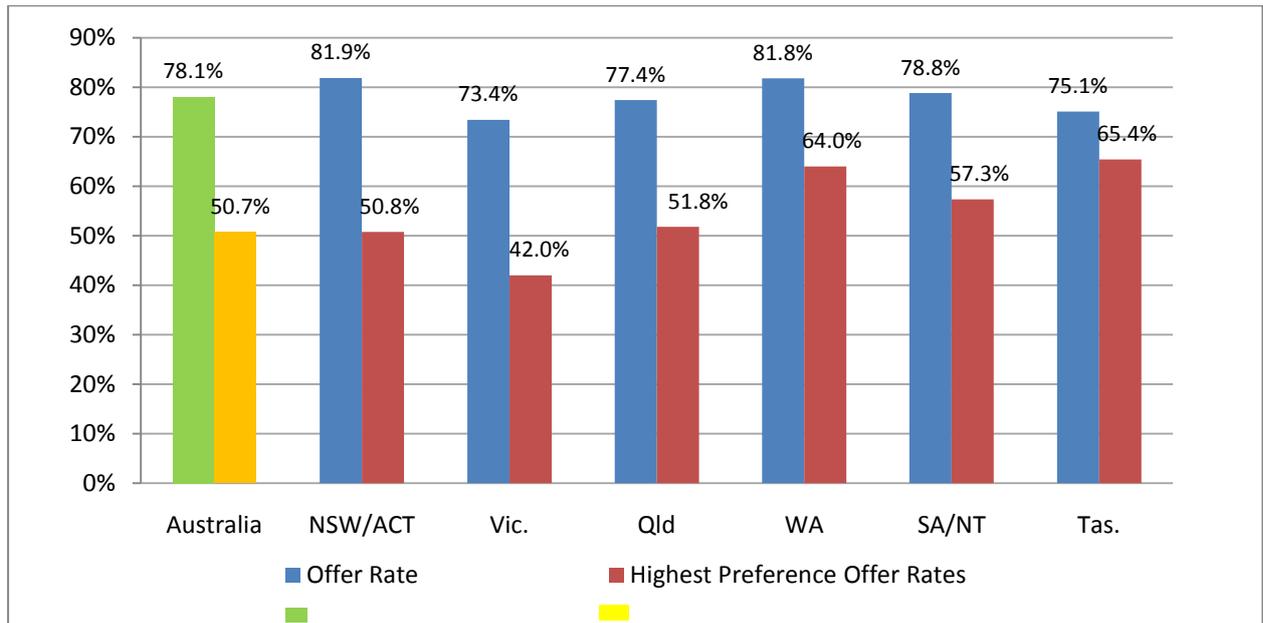
Across Australia, a total of 137 579 applicants received an offer for their highest preference application. Note that highest preference refers to the highest ranking preference for a Commonwealth Supported Place (CSP) in a university undergraduate award course in a set of preferences expressed by the applicant. This does not necessarily represent the first preference on an application. Depending on how individual TACs operate, this may be a postgraduate, non-award, or VET course, in which case it is not included in the analysis presented here.

Across Australia, most applicants were offered a place in their preferred course. Applicants with an offer for their highest preference course comprised nearly two thirds (65.0%) of all successful applicants.

Overall offer rates and highest preference offer rates in 2011 were not very different from 2010, except for a significant increase in Victoria, where the highest preference offer rate rose by 5.2 percentage points.

Figure 1 compares highest preference offer rates and overall offer rates by state and territory. Highest preference offer rates generally varied in proportion to overall offer rates. In Tasmania, however, the highest preference offer rate was unusually high at 65.4%, only 9.7 percentage points behind the overall Tasmanian offer rate.

**Figure 1: Proportion of applicants that received an offer for their highest preference and proportion receiving any offer, by state and territory, 2011**



Tasmania recorded the highest first preference offer rate of 65.4%, with Western Australia a close second (64.0%). Highest preference offer rates were below 60% in other states. The figure was just above half in New South Wales/Australian Capital Territory (50.8%) and Queensland (51.8%) and 57.3% in South Australia/Northern Territory. Victoria recorded the lowest offer rate for highest preferences: only 42.0% of Victorian applicants received an offer in their first preference course. This was in line with Victoria’s overall offer rate, which at 73.4% was the lowest of any state. The gap between the overall offer rate and the highest preference offer rate (31.4 percentage points) was also largest in Victoria. New South Wales/Australian Capital Territory had the next biggest gap (31.1 percentage points).

Current Year 12 applicants (applications) were less likely to receive an offer for their highest preference course (60.4%) compared with 70.5% for other applicants. However, overall (not accounting for preferences) current Year 12 applicants had a higher offer rate than other applicants. These figures support the theory that many Year 12 students nominate an aspirational first preference, while other applicants are more focused in their preferences.

### *Offers to applicants with few preferences*

Applicants (applications) with few preferences were markedly less likely to receive an offer than were applicants who expressed three or more preferences. Of applicants with three or more preferences, 81.8% received an offer. This compares with just 67.6% for applicants with fewer than three preferences. For those with only two preferences the offer rate was only 68.3% and for those with only one preference the offer rate was lower still at 67.1%.

Differences in offer rates are related to the characteristics and prior educational participation of applicants who express few preferences. As reported in the Chapter 3, applicants with fewer than three preferences tend to be older, non-Year 12 applicants.

## 5. Acceptances

### *Total number of acceptances*

According to 2011 data, 151 008 applicants accepted an offer. This was a marginal increase of 1.2% on the 149 230 acceptances reported in 2010. This is associated, in part, with the increase in offers and applications.

It is important to note that the definition of acceptances used in this report includes only those applicants who formally notify the TAC that they accepted an offer. Deferrals are excluded from the total. The rate at which applicants accepted offers dropped slightly in 2011 (from 72.9% in 2010 to 71.3%).

### *Acceptances by state and territory*

In terms of accepting an offer (Table 20), Tasmania experienced the highest percentage increase of 10.3% followed by New South Wales/Australian Capital Territory (4.0%) and Victoria (2.6%). South Australia/Northern Territory (8.8%) and Western Australia (3.3%) experienced negative growth in acceptances. Acceptances grew marginally in Queensland (0.1 %).

Acceptance rates decreased 1.6 percentage points overall (from 72.9% to 71.3%), with especially big decreases in South Australia/Northern Territory (7.4 percentage points), Victoria (2.7 percentage points), Western Australia (1.5 percentage points) and Queensland (1.2 percentage points). There was a modest increase in New South Wales/Australian Capital Territory (0.8 percentage points). The acceptance rate remained the same in Tasmania.

**Table 20: Annual change in acceptances and acceptance rates by state and territory, 2010 and 2011\***

State	Accepted offer			Acceptance rate		
	2010	2011	% Change	2010	2011	Change (p.p.)
NSW/ACT	48,681	50,634	4.0%	72.4%	73.2%	0.8
Vic.	35,300	36,216	2.6%	68.9%	66.2%	-2.7
Qld	33,572	33,599	0.1%	78.6%	77.4%	-1.2
WA	12,738	12,312	-3.3%	74.7%	73.2%	-1.5
SA/NT	13,810	12,591	-8.8%	71.5%	64.1%	-7.4
Tas.	5,129	5,656	10.3%	71.3%	71.3%	0.0
<b>Australia</b>	<b>149,230</b>	<b>151,008</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>72.9%</b>	<b>71.3%</b>	<b>-1.6</b>

\*Acceptances exclude deferrals

### *Prior educational participation*

The acceptance rate for current Year 12 applicants (applications) in 2011 was 70.2%, with 81 217 current Year 12 applicants accepting an offer of a place. This was slightly lower than the average (71.3%). The number of acceptances and the acceptance rate for each state and territory is presented in Table 21.

**Table 21: Acceptances and acceptance rates by current Year 12 status and state and territory, 2011**

State	Accepting offer		Acceptance rate	
	Current Year 12	Non-Year 12	Current Year 12	Non-Year 12
NSW/ACT	28,898	21,736	72.6%	74.1%
Vic.	22,210	14,006	69.3%	61.7%
Qld	15,882	17,717	73.3%	81.6%
WA	7,216	5,096	69.0%	80.1%
SA/NT	5,653	6,938	60.8%	67.0%
Tas.	1,358	4,298	54.4%	79.1%
<b>Australia</b>	<b>81,217</b>	<b>69,791</b>	<b>70.2%</b>	<b>72.8%</b>

Table 22 shows the number of acceptances and acceptance rates for those with prior VET and university participation. It should be noted that these categories are not mutually exclusive. The acceptance rate recorded for applications from applicants who had previously studied VET was 73.5%, higher than the average of 71.3%. The acceptance rate for applications from applicants with previous university education study was slightly lower at 70.2%.

**Table 22: Acceptances and acceptance rates by prior VET and university participation and state and territory, 2011**

State	Accepting offer		Acceptance rate	
	Prior VET	Prior university	Prior VET	Prior university
NSW/ACT	7,876	10,080	75.9%	68.9%
Vic.	6,291	7,709	64.2%	60.0%
Qld	6,150	11,039	81.9%	81.2%
WA	2,149	2,239	80.2%	75.9%
SA/NT	2,262	2,417	65.5%	60.6%
Tas.	1,428	1,998	80.1%	79.9%
<b>Australia</b>	<b>26,156</b>	<b>35,482</b>	<b>73.5%</b>	<b>70.2%</b>

### Gender

Acceptance rates differed slightly by gender. Of male applicants in receipt of an offer, 72.6% accepted. The corresponding figure for females was 70.5%.

**Table 23: Acceptances and acceptance rates by gender and state and territory, 2011**

State	Accepting offer		Acceptance rate	
	Male applicants	Female applicants	Male applicants	Female applicants
NSW/ACT	21,896	28,738	74.4%	72.4%
Vic.	15,404	20,812	67.8%	65.0%
Qld	13,521	20,078	78.9%	76.5%
WA	5,290	7,022	74.3%	72.4%
SA/NT	4,918	7,673	65.1%	63.4%
Tas.	2,281	3,375	70.4%	72.0%
<b>Australia</b>	<b>63,310</b>	<b>87,698</b>	<b>72.6%</b>	<b>70.5%</b>

## Age

Acceptance rates did not differ markedly by age group. As shown by Table 24, applicants aged 25 and over had marginally higher than average acceptance rates at 71.4%, as compared with 17-19 and 20-24 year-olds (71.3%).

**Table 24: Acceptances and acceptance rates by age group and state and territory, 2011**

State	Accepting offer				Acceptance rate			
	16 and under	17-19	20-24	25 and over	16 and under	17-19	20-24	25 and over
NSW/ACT	71	36,536	8,337	5,690	63.4%	73.8%	73.3%	69.7%
Vic.	49	25,904	6,573	3,690	47.1%	68.5%	62.4%	58.9%
Qld	179	21,118	5,536	6,766	71.9%	75.3%	80.6%	82.2%
WA	64	9,174	1,513	1,561	66.0%	71.9%	77.0%	78.8%
SA/NT	48	7,766	2,074	2,703	61.5%	63.6%	66.7%	63.4%
Tas.	241	2,275	1,234	1,906	94.1%	60.7%	78.3%	81.1%
<b>Australia</b>	<b>652</b>	<b>102,773</b>	<b>25,267</b>	<b>22,316</b>	<b>72.8%</b>	<b>71.3%</b>	<b>71.3%</b>	<b>71.4%</b>

## Interstate applicants

Interstate applicants (applications) were much less likely to accept an offer than home state applicants. Across Australia as a whole, 75.2% of home state applicants accepted their offers. The corresponding figure for interstate applicants was only 41.2%. This is consistent with what is known about interstate applicants, that many also apply in their home state (and perhaps in more than one other state) for admission to a limited set of high demand courses with very high entrance standards (such as Medical Studies, Dental Studies and Veterinary Studies). An applicant who applies in several states is more likely to receive an offer in several states but cannot accept all offers made. Hence, acceptance rates for interstate applicants are relatively low. Applicants may also be less willing to accept offers from interstate (and more willing to accept them in their home state) due to the greater effort and difficulty of moving interstate to attend university.

There is a large gap between home state and interstate acceptance rates in all states and territories as shown by Table 25. The difference ranges from 26.4 percentage points in Tasmania to 40.7 percentage points in Victoria.

**Table 25: Acceptances and acceptance rates by home state/interstate and state and territory, 2011**

State	Accepting offer		Acceptance rate	
	Home state	Interstate	Home state	Interstate
NSW/ACT	48,375	2,259	75.6%	43.6%
Vic.	34,251	1,965	71.0%	30.3%
Qld	30,441	3,158	81.6%	51.8%
WA	11,817	495	76.1%	38.6%
SA/NT	11,481	1,110	69.8%	34.6%
Tas.	4,706	950	77.5%	51.1%
<b>Australia</b>	<b>141,071</b>	<b>9,937</b>	<b>75.2%</b>	<b>41.2%</b>

## Deferrals

The number of deferrals fell slightly in 2011, compared with 2010 (Table 26). Note that deferrals data in this report includes only those applicants who formally deferred their offer through their TAC. Some applicants defer later, at the point of enrolment.

The deferral rate fell by 0.4 percentage point in 2011 to 10.4% of applicants in receipt of an offer. Deferral rates fell in all states and territories, except New South Wales/Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania which increased by 0.3 percentage point and half a percentage point, respectively.

**Table 26: Deferrals and deferral rates by state and territory, 2010 and 2011**

State	Deferrals 2010	Deferral rate 2010	Deferrals 2011	Deferral rate 2011	Difference in Deferral rate (p.p)
NSW/ACT	5,312	7.9%	5,670	8.2%	0.3
Vic.	5,820	11.4%	5,821	10.6%	-0.8
Qld	5,223	12.2%	4,966	11.4%	-0.8
WA	2,341	13.7%	2,202	13.1%	-0.6
SA/NT	3,157	16.3%	3,063	15.6%	-0.7
Tas.	277	3.8%	341	4.3%	0.5
<b>Australia</b>	<b>22,130</b>	<b>10.8%</b>	<b>22,063</b>	<b>10.4%</b>	<b>-0.4</b>

Current Year 12 applicants were more than twice as likely to defer as non-Year 12 applicants (Table 27). Deferral rates for applicants who had previously studied VET (7.7%) was higher than for those with previous university study (5.9%).

**Table 27: Deferrals by current Year 12 status and prior educational participation, 2011**

Prior Education	Deferrals	Deferral rate
Current Year 12	16,192	14.0%
Non Year 12	5,871	6.1%
<b>Prior Educational participation</b>		
Prior VET	2,745	7.7%
Prior University	2,986	5.9%

Applications from regional applicants (Table 28) were about twice as likely to defer as metropolitan applicants. Applications from remote applicants were even more likely to defer with 23.3% of all remote applicants who received an offer deferring that offer.

**Table 28: Deferrals by Region, SES and Indigenous status, 2011**

	Deferrals	Deferral rate
<b>Region</b>		
Metropolitan	13,524	8.4%
Regional	7,752	16.8%
Remote	580	23.3%
Unknown	207	8.9%
<b>Socioeconomic status</b>		
High	6,436	9.7%
Medium	11,147	10.8%
Low	4,147	10.8%
Unknown	334	10.5%
<b>Indigenous status</b>		
Indigenous	223	10.1%
Non-Indigenous	21,840	10.4%

There was no difference in deferral rates between medium and low SES applicants. High SES applicants were less likely to defer compared to low and medium SES applicants. Indigenous applicants were slightly less likely to defer than non-Indigenous applicants.

Younger applicants were much more likely to defer (Table 29), consistent with the figures for current Year 12 applicants reported above. Applicants in the youngest two age groups were almost twice as likely to defer as applicants aged 20-24. Applicants aged 25 or more showed deferral rates in between those of the school leaver age cohort and those of applicants in their early 20s. Interstate applicants' deferral rate was 2.5 percentage points higher than the home state applicants' deferral rate.

**Table 29: Deferrals by age, gender and home and interstate applicants, 2011**

	Deferrals	Deferral rate
<b>Age group</b>		
16 and under	95	10.6%
17-19	17,340	12.0%
20-24	2,039	5.8%
25 and over	2,589	8.3%
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	13,555	10.9%
Male	8,508	9.8%
<b>Home state and Interstate</b>		
Home state	19,014	10.1%
Interstate	3,049	12.6%

Differences in deferral rates were particularly pronounced for current Year 12 applicants. While only 10.6% of metropolitan current Year 12 applicants deferred, nearly a quarter of regional current Year 12 applicants and more than one third of remote current Year 12 applicants deferred their offers (Table 30). There was little difference in deferral rates by region for other applicants, though remote applicants were slightly more likely to defer and metropolitan applicants were less likely to defer.

By SES, differences in deferral rates for current Year 12 applicants were much less pronounced than differences by region (Table 30). High SES current Year 12 applicants were least likely to defer and low SES current Year 12 applicants most likely.

**Table 30: Deferral rates by Region and SES by current Year 12 status, 2011**

	Current Year 12	Other applicants	Total
<b>Region</b>			
Metropolitan	10.6%	5.9%	8.4%
Regional	24.0%	6.6%	16.8%
Remote	34.4%	8.5%	23.3%
Unknown	7.6%	9.3%	8.9%
<b>Socioeconomic Status</b>			
High	12.9%	5.7%	9.7%
Medium	14.4%	6.3%	10.8%
Low	14.7%	6.1%	10.8%
Unknown	14.0%	8.8%	10.5%

## 6. Unmet Demand

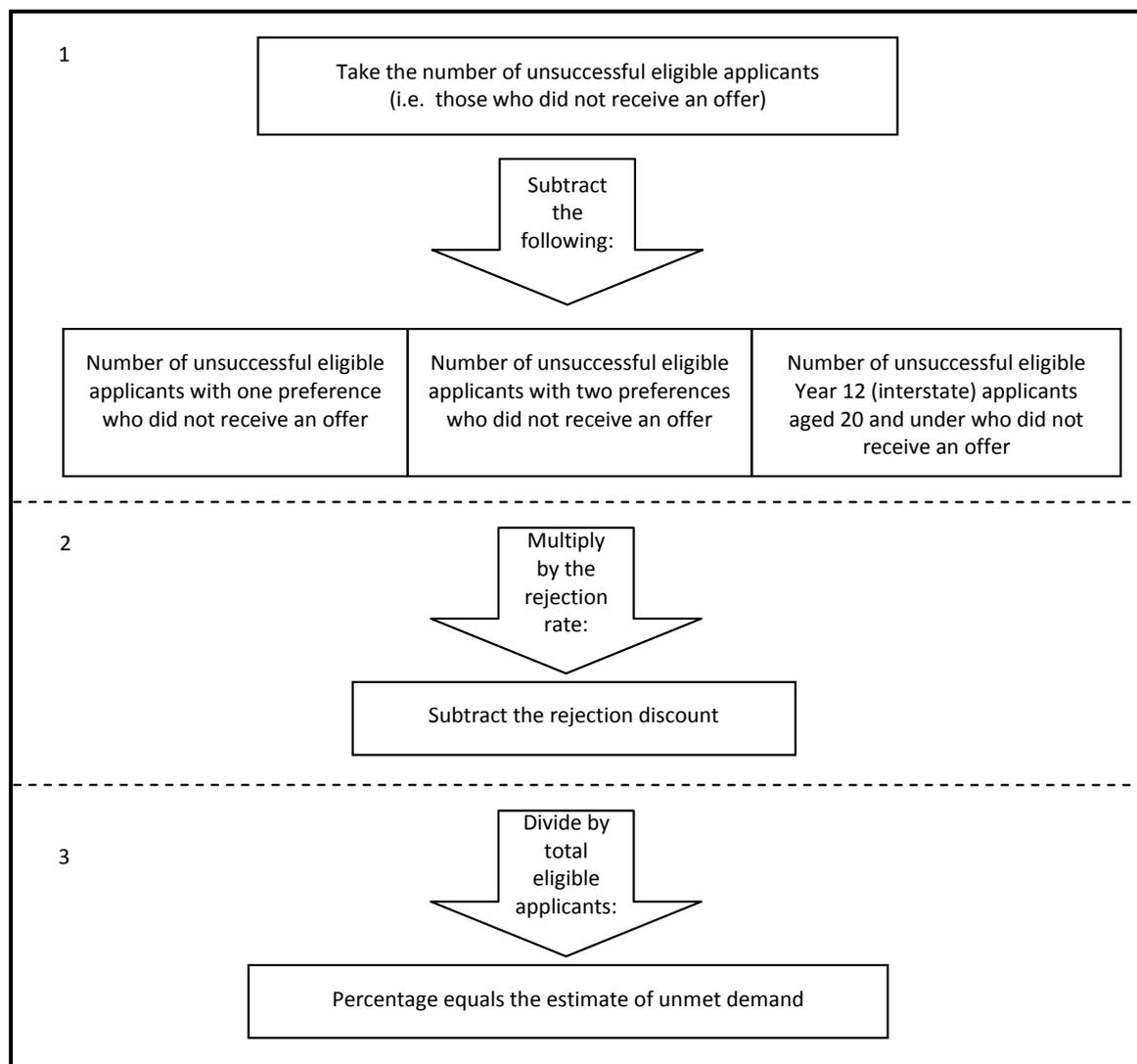
### Concepts and method

The raw number of applications without a corresponding offer does not provide a meaningful estimate of unmet demand for higher education. To derive a more realistic estimate of unmet demand, the former Australian Vice Chancellor's Committee (now Universities Australia) developed a methodology which applies a series of discounts to the number of unsuccessful applicants. These discounts aim to remove:

- school leaver applicants with low ATARs;
- multiple applications (that is, where one applicant applies to more than one TAC); and
- applicants with fewer than three preferences.

The adjusted total is then further discounted to allow for the rate at which applicants reject offers.

**Figure 2: Calculation of unmet demand**



The result of all these calculations is the estimate of unmet demand. Figure 2 shows the estimation method schematically. An eligible applicant refers to all applicants less school leaver applicants with an ATAR below an agreed benchmark (54.95 in 2011).

It is important to note that eligibility, according to this definition, is a concept developed for analytic purposes only and is not directly relevant to the admissions process. Note that ineligible applicants can (and do) receive offers.

The current methodology for estimating unmet demand was developed by Universities Australia (UA) in consultation with ACTAC and was first used for UA's 2005 Report on Applications for Undergraduate University Courses. Results from the newly agreed methodology were back cast to 2001. For years prior to 2001, available published unmet demand estimates were calculated according to a different methodology. One difference in methodology was that unmet demand was previously estimated as a range rather than, as now, as a single, though rounded, figure.

As in previous years, DEEWR is using the established UA methodology for consistency in order to enable comparison across time. It should be noted in particular that unmet demand calculated according to this method covers only applications and offers processed through TACs and does not take account of direct applications.

### *Unmet demand in 2011*

Unmet demand in 2011 was estimated at 7.8%, or around 19 400 applicants. As a proportion of eligible applicants (applications), this represented a decrease of 0.4 percentage points.

Estimated unmet demand in 2011 – including a step-by-step calculation – is shown in Table 31.

**Table 31: Estimation of unmet demand, 2011**

	<b>2011</b>
Total applications	271,117
Total Eligible applications	246,987
Total unsuccessful applications	59,463
Number discounted from total unsuccessful applications	16,442
Unsuccessful eligible applications	43,021
<b>Step one</b>	
Unsuccessful eligible applications (home state) with one preference	8,276
Unsuccessful eligible applications (home state) with two preferences	4,965
Unsuccessful eligible school leaver applications (interstate) aged 20 and under	6,219
Number discounted from step one	19,460
<b>Step two</b>	
Estimate of unsuccessful eligible applications remaining after step one	23,561
Rejection rate <sup>#</sup>	18.0%
Number discounted from step two	4,207
<b>Step three</b>	
Unsuccessful eligible applications after discounting (rounded)	19,400
% of total eligible applications (unmet demand)	7.8%

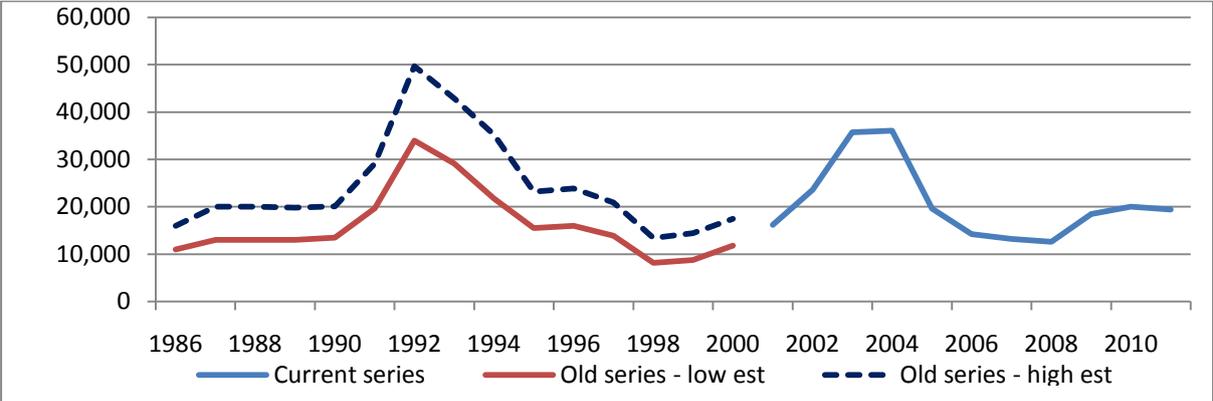
<sup>#</sup> Weighted average. Rejection rates are calculated separately for each TAC. See Appendix Table A2.1 for details.

The decrease in unmet demand observed in 2011 was small and coincided with a modest increase in applications (1.5%). Relatively higher growth in offers (3.3%) offset the modest increase in demand. A small increase in the number of current Year 12 applicants with very low ATARs reduced the proportion of eligible applicants which contributed to the decrease in unmet demand.

In the recent past, large increases in applications have led to large increases in unmet demand. In 2002, a 6.2% increase in eligible applications yielded a rise of nearly three percentage points (or 7400) in unmet demand. In 2003, unmet demand grew by five percentage points following a 3.0% rise in applications.

Unmet demand in 2011 remains relatively low by historical standards. Unmet demand was above 35 000 (or 15% of eligible applicants) in 2003 and 2004 and has fallen significantly since then. Unmet demand was even higher during the first half of the 1990s. Note that UA estimated unmet demand as a range prior to 2001 (using a different methodology). In 1992, the low end estimate of unmet demand was 34 000 (or 14.6% of eligible applicants) and the high end estimate was 49 700 (21.4% of eligible applicants).

**Figure 3: Unmet demand, 1986-2011**



*Trends in unmet demand by state and territory*

As shown in Table 32, unmet demand fell across all states/territories, except for Queensland (where eligible applications also fell by 1.7%) between 2010 and 2011. On the other hand, unmet demand fell in South Australia/Northern Territory (11.8%) and Western Australia (9.1%). Victoria recorded the smallest decrease in unmet demand (3.3%). Historically, Victoria has recorded the highest rate of unmet demand by state. In 2011, however, unmet demand was highest in Queensland (6100) followed by Victoria (5800).

**Table 32: Annual change in unmet demand by state and territory, 2010-2011**

State	Unmet demand (frequency of unsuccessful applicants)			Unmet demand (%)		
	2010	2011	% Change	2010	2011	Change (p.p.)
NSW/ACT	4,400	4,200	-4.5%	5.9%	5.5%	-0.4
Vic.	6,000	5,800	-3.3%	9.5%	9.0%	-0.5
Qld	6,000	6,100	1.7%	11.1%	11.5%	0.4
WA	1,100	1,000	-9.1%	5.7%	5.1%	-0.6
SA/NT	1,700	1,500	-11.8%	7.5%	6.6%	-0.9
Tas.	800	800	0.0%	8.9%	7.5%	-1.4
<b>Australia</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>19,400</b>	<b>-3.0%</b>	<b>8.2%</b>	<b>7.8%</b>	<b>-0.4</b>

**Table 33: Unsuccessful eligible applicants after discounting by state and territory, 2002-2011**

State	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
NSW/ACT	6,600	10,000	11,400	5,700	3,700	3,400	2,500	4,200	4,400	4,200
Vic.	10,100	12,400	12,000	6,500	4,300	5,100	4,500	6,400	6,000	5,800
Qld	5,600	9,400	8,400	4,200	4,000	2,700	3,200	4,700	6,000	6,100
WA	800	2,400	2,900	1,600	900	700	700	1,000	1,100	1,000
SA/NT	500	1,200	1,100	1,400	1,100	1,000	1,000	1,500	1,700	1,500
Tas.	42	300	300	200	200	300	700	700	800	800
<b>Australia</b>	<b>23,600</b>	<b>35,700</b>	<b>36,100</b>	<b>19,600</b>	<b>14,200</b>	<b>13,200</b>	<b>12,600</b>	<b>18,500</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>19,400</b>

### *A demand driven system and future unmet demand*

In the 2009-10 Budget, in response to the Bradley Review of Australian Higher Education, the Government announced its ambition for growth in higher education attainment, so that by 2025, 40 per cent of all 25 to 34 year olds will hold a qualification at bachelor level or above. To support achievement of the attainment ambition, the Government announced that from 2012, undergraduate Commonwealth supported places at public universities would be funded on the basis of student demand. The Government provided for transitional arrangements in 2010 and 2011 to precede the introduction of the new funding system, which included increasing the cap on over enrolments above the allocated target places from 5 per cent to 10 per cent.

Estimates of enrolments for 2011 indicate that universities are already responding to the Government's commitment to implement a demand driven funding system for undergraduate places from 2012. In 2011, the Government is estimated to be funding around 482,000 Commonwealth supported undergraduate places at public universities. This is an increase of around 18,000 places, or 4%, above 2010 enrolment numbers. The growth in 2011 brings total growth in undergraduate places to 16% over 2008 to 2011.

The current method of estimating unmet demand was devised when the supply of places was more tightly constrained by Australian Government funding policies than is now the case. In a demand driven funding system, universities will decide how many places to offer, in each field and course. This change in the funding system will lead to a changed relationship between the demand and supply for university places. This will also change the nature and level of estimates of unmet demand. Whereas at present unmet demand approximates, in an aggregate sense, the inability of applicants to secure university entrance, in the future unmet demand may be more likely to reflect the mismatch between applicants' preferences for particular fields of

study or university. Future review and revision of methods for estimating unmet demand will take into consideration the operation of a demand driven system in comparison to the funding system prevailing from the mid 2000s. Further discussion of the future demand driven system can be found at page 68 in the discussion of the current and future policy environment of the higher education sector.

### *Outcomes for unsuccessful applicants*

The Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth (LSAY) provides a rich source of data on young people's transitions from school to various forms of post-school education, training and labour market outcomes. LSAY has found that around 90% of Year 12 applicants who do not get a university place will go on to further study or employment.<sup>2</sup> Two years after completing Year 12, 45% of unsuccessful applicants were doing some form of post-school education and training; about 24% were enrolled in a TAFE Diploma course, 11% in a traineeship, 6% in a TAFE Certificate course, and 5% in an apprenticeship.

Many young people go on to university several years after leaving school. LSAY has found that slightly more than half (52%) of young people who were in Year 9 in 1998 had attended university at some point in the ten years after completing Year 9.<sup>3</sup> More than one third of this cohort (36%) had completed a bachelor's degree or higher by 2008. Some 58% of the 1998 Year 9 cohort had enrolled in VET (including apprenticeships) by 2008 and 41% had completed a VET qualification.

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<sup>2</sup> Gary N. Marks (2005) *Unmet Demand: Characteristics and Activities of School Leavers Not Offered a University Place*, (LSAY Research Report 46).

<sup>3</sup> NCVET (2010), *LSAY Y98 Cohort Report*, Table 2: Educational Indicators for Y98 LSAY cohort, 1998-2008, [http://www.lsay.edu.au/popups/cohort\\_table.php?info=1998\\_2\\_1&filter1=0&filter2=0](http://www.lsay.edu.au/popups/cohort_table.php?info=1998_2_1&filter1=0&filter2=0)

## 7. Field of Education

### *Applications by field of education*

Universities determine their course offerings at an institutional level in response to student demand. For purposes of classification and analysis, education courses are coded according to the Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED). There are 12 broad fields of education that differ in the range of university courses and subjects they cover. Society and Culture covers the broadest range, including, among other subjects, Political Science, History, Social Work, Psychology, Law, Languages, Philosophy, Economics and Criminology. Natural and Physical Sciences covers several distinct fields (including Mathematics, Physics, Geology, Biology), while Health covers courses designed to prepare students for several different professions (including Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Veterinary Science and Physiotherapy). Creative Arts is another diverse broad field, which includes Journalism and Graphic Design as well as Performing and Visual Arts. On the other hand Education and Information Technology cover a narrower range of courses<sup>4</sup>.

The most popular broad field of education was Health which attracted 67 040 highest preference applications (24.7% of all applications). Society and Culture (including Law) was second with 55 859 applications. The next most popular broad field was Management and Commerce which was well behind Society and Culture with 35 345 applications, followed by Creative Arts with 27 999 and Natural and Physical Sciences with 21 086 applications. A breakdown of the number of highest preferences recorded by each broad field of education and selected narrow fields, for the years 2009 to 2011, is found in Table 34 below.

**Table 34: Highest preferences, offers and acceptances by field of education, 2009-2011**

Field of education	Highest Preference			Offers			Acceptances		
	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011
Natural and Physical Sciences	17,222	19,390	21,086	18,018	20,420	21,759	12,759	14,654	15,322
Information Technology	6,500	6,802	6,858	5,219	5,943	6,019	4,171	4,569	4,645
Engineering	16,523	16,713	17,327	13,803	14,083	14,496	10,409	10,867	11,152
Architecture	8,877	9,430	9,577	5,804	6,235	6,324	4,422	4,801	4,752
Agriculture	4,272	4,491	4,308	4,042	4,341	4,091	2,623	2,936	2,738
Health	57,006	64,394	67,040	35,317	38,467	40,167	25,054	27,462	27,969
<i>Medical</i>	10,110	11,438	12,752	2,146	2,466	2,671	1,548	1,783	1,867
<i>Nursing</i>	18,768	22,527	22,024	14,061	15,865	15,634	10,859	11,993	11,495
<i>Dental</i>	3,553	3,547	4,114	1,069	1,103	1,114	683	684	695
<i>Veterinary</i>	2,378	2,007	2,107	699	595	598	429	399	377
<i>Health Other</i>	22,197	24,275	26,043	17,342	18,438	20,150	11,535	14,991	13,535
Education	22,858	24,684	23,797	16,871	17,843	18,494	12,258	13,055	13,240
<i>Teacher Education</i>	21,886	23,515	22,478	16,276	17,000	17,776	11,803	12,442	12,688
Management and Commerce	35,308	34,788	35,345	28,394	29,194	30,350	21,426	21,838	22,107
Society and Culture	55,451	56,737	55,859	46,515	47,889	49,276	33,179	34,642	34,148
<i>Law</i>	12,769	12,399	11,253	8,190	7,543	7,148	5,900	5,397	5,043
Creative Arts	25,668	28,139	27,999	17,044	18,921	19,058	12,369	13,232	13,591
<b>Total</b>	<b>249,743</b>	<b>266,996</b>	<b>271,117</b>	<b>191,068</b>	<b>204,794</b>	<b>211,654</b>	<b>138,697</b>	<b>149,230</b>	<b>151,008</b>

NB: Hospitality and Mixed Field programs are not shown and hence the number of total applications does not equal to the sum of applications by broad field of education shown above.

<sup>4</sup> ABS (2001), *Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED)*, Cat. No. 1272.0

### *Field of education preferences, offers and acceptances over time*

Time series data from 2009 to 2011 by field of education are presented in Table 34. The largest increases in demand between 2010 and 2011 was for Dental Studies (up 16.0%) and Medical Studies (up 11.5%) compared with an overall increase of 1.5% in total applications. The fields which recorded the largest decreases in applicants were Law (down 9.2%), Teacher Education (down 4.4%) and Agriculture, Environmental and Related Studies (down 4.1%).

The decline in Law is mainly attributed to recent changes in the structure of law degrees at some institutions. A number of universities have introduced graduate entry programs (Juris Doctor), requiring students wishing to undertake a Law degree to first enrol in an undergraduate degree in a different field of study.

### *Offer rates by field of education*

Not surprisingly, offer rates differed widely by field of education (Table 35). The lowest offer rates were recorded in Medical Studies (20.9%), Dental Studies (27.1%) and Veterinary Studies (28.4%). The next lowest offer rate (though much higher than these three fields) was Law at 63.5%. Architecture and Building (66.0%) and Creative Arts (68.1%) also recorded relatively low offer rates. In Natural and Physical Sciences, on the other hand, the number of offers exceeded the number of applicants (applications) with this field as their highest valid preference. As a result the offer rate for Natural and Physical Sciences was 103.2%. In 2011, the offer rate for Agriculture, Environmental and Related Studies was still very high at 95.0%, while the offer rate for Information Technology courses was 87.8%. Offer rates have exceeded 100% in these broad fields of education in the past.

### *Acceptances by field of education*

Acceptance rates differ less by field of education (Table 35). Acceptance rates are somewhat lower for Dental Studies (62.4%) and Veterinary Studies (63.0%). This reflects applicant behaviour: applicants for these high demand courses often apply for several courses in different states, receive more than one offer and then only accept one offer.

**Table 35: Offer rates, acceptances rates by field of education, 2009-2011**

Field of education	Offer rates			Acceptance rates		
	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011
Natural and Physical Sciences	104.6%	105.3%	103.2%	82.6%	71.8%	70.4%
Information Technology	80.3%	87.4%	87.8%	88.7%	76.9%	77.2%
Engineering	83.5%	84.3%	83.7%	85.9%	77.2%	76.9%
Architecture	65.4%	66.1%	66.0%	89.0%	77.0%	75.1%
Agriculture	94.6%	96.7%	95.0%	80.6%	67.6%	66.9%
Health	62.0%	59.7%	59.9%	82.5%	71.4%	69.6%
<i>Medical</i>	21.2%	21.6%	20.9%	80.3%	72.3%	69.9%
<i>Nursing</i>	74.9%	70.4%	71.0%	86.5%	75.6%	73.5%
<i>Dental</i>	30.1%	31.1%	27.1%	71.5%	62.0%	62.4%
<i>Veterinary</i>	29.4%	29.6%	28.4%	75.0%	67.1%	63.0%
<i>Health Other</i>			77.4%			67.2%
Education	73.8%	72.3%	77.7%	84.0%	73.2%	71.6%
<i>Teacher Education</i>	74.4%	72.3%	79.1%	83.9%	73.2%	71.4%
Management and Commerce	80.4%	83.9%	85.9%	86.0%	74.8%	72.8%
Society and Culture	83.9%	84.4%	88.2%	84.2%	72.3%	69.3%
<i>Law</i>	64.1%	60.8%	63.5%	83.1%	71.5%	70.6%
Creative Arts	66.4%	67.2%	68.1%	85.2%	69.9%	71.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>76.5%</b>	<b>76.7%</b>	<b>78.1%</b>	<b>84.4%</b>	<b>72.9%</b>	<b>71.3%</b>

NB: Hospitality and Mixed Field programs are not shown and hence the number of total applications does not equal to the sum of applications by broad field of education shown above.

### *Trends in key skills areas*

Time series data by field of education is limited to eligible applicants.

Trends in applications and offers since 2001 are reported in the remainder of the chapter for four fields of education where the Australian Government has introduced changes to the Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) repayments, namely:

- Nursing,
- Education,
- Early Childhood Education, and
- Natural and Physical Sciences (including Mathematical Science).

Time series data are also presented for three further fields of education where concerns have been expressed about potential skills shortages:

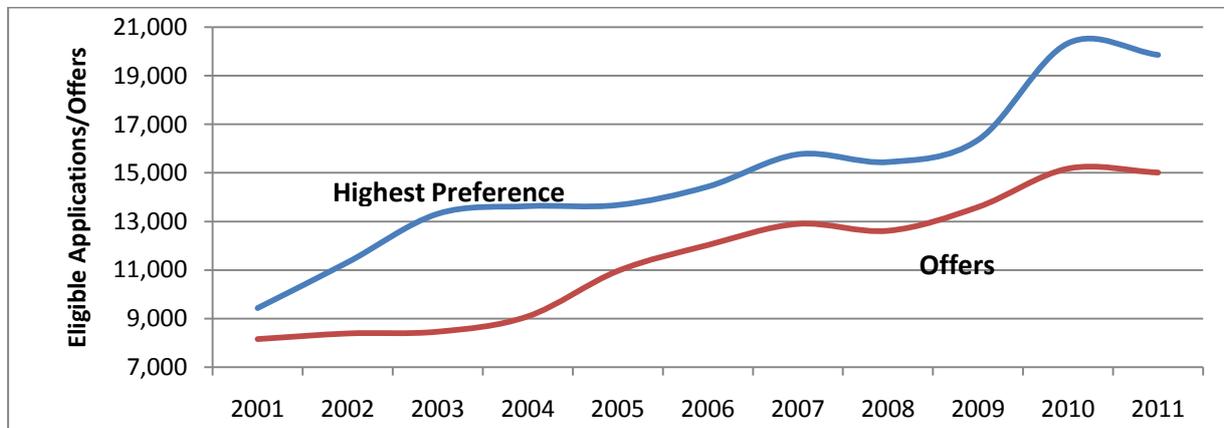
- Medical Studies,
- Dental Studies, and
- Engineering.

### *Trends in key skills areas – Nursing*

Demand for Nursing courses fell in 2011, though it remains at historically high levels following strong growth in 2010. The number of eligible applicants (applications) for Nursing decreased by 2.4% in 2011 to 19 866. Demand for Nursing increased by more than 100% between 2001 and 2011.

The number of offers in Nursing also decreased slightly (by 1.1%) in 2011 following strong growth in 2010 (Figure 4). Compared with 2001, the number of offers increased by 84.3%. The offer rate for eligible applicants for Nursing in 2011 was 75.6%, slightly higher than in 2010 (74.6%). Measures introduced in the 2009-10 Budget to increase student contributions for Nursing in order to support expanded course provision and to lower compulsory HELP debt repayments for graduates working in the Nursing profession are likely to explain, in part, the higher level of demand for Nursing courses recorded from 2009.

**Figure 4: Eligible applicants and offers, Nursing, 2001-2011**



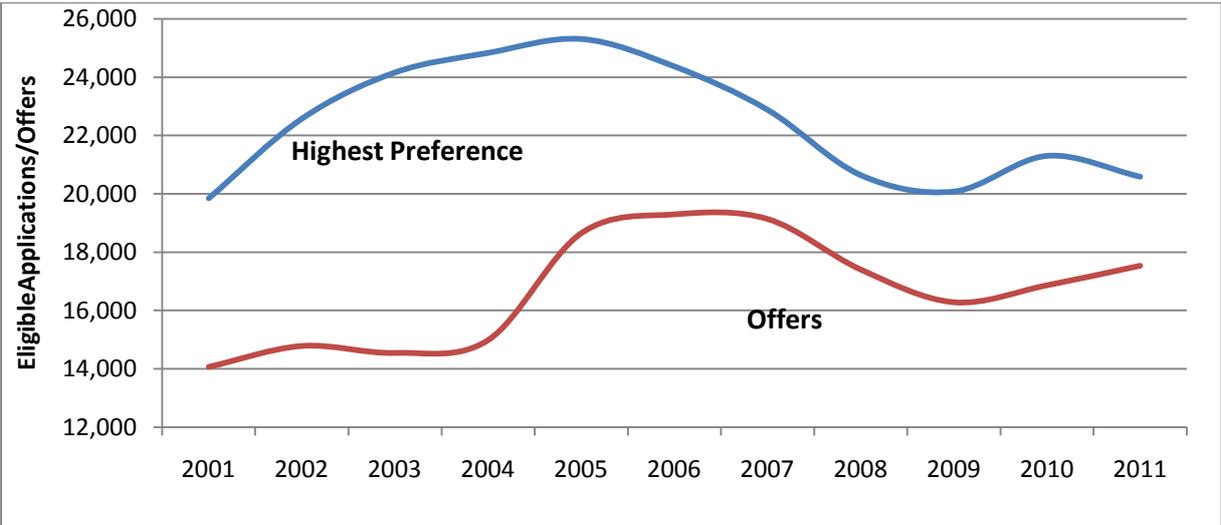
### *Trends in key skills areas – Education*

The number of eligible applicants (applications) for Education courses decreased in 2011 (down 3.4%). The number of eligible applicants in 2011 (20 584) was 15.5% lower compared with five years ago, and just 3.3% higher compared with 2001 (Figure 5).

On the other hand, offers increased by 4.0% in 2011. The 2011 offer rate was 85.2%, up by 6.0 percentage points from 2010. The number of eligible offers in 2011 (17 534) was 9.1% lower compared with five years ago, and 24.6% higher compared with 2001 eligible offers.

Similar to Nursing units, measures introduced in the 2009-2010 Budget to increase student participation in Education courses (for graduates working in the education sector) may explain, in part, the higher level of demand for Educational courses from 2009.

**Figure 5: Eligible applicants and offers, Education, 2001-2011**



*Trends in key skills areas – Early Childhood Education*

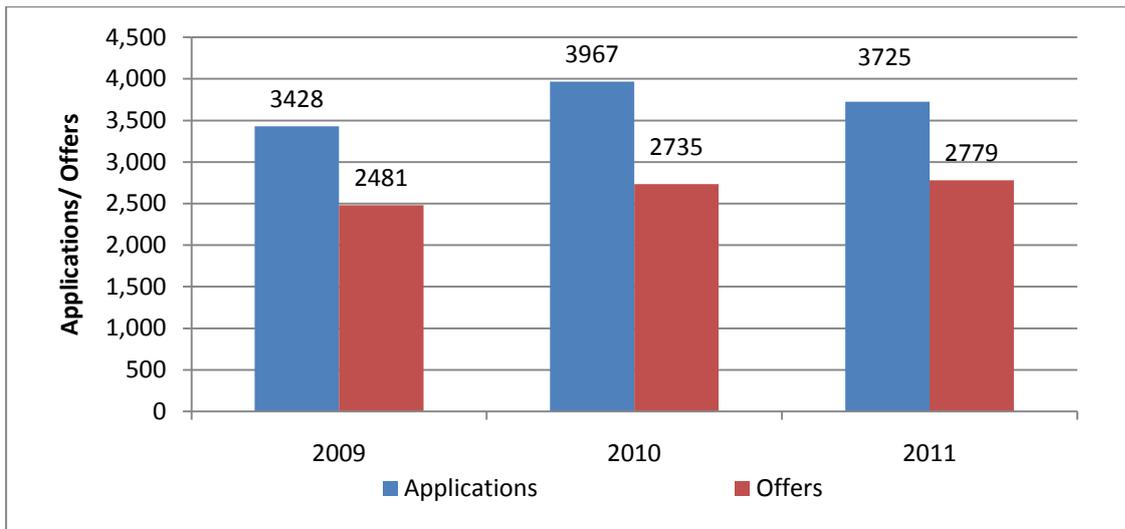
It is not possible to present time series data on Early Childhood Education courses for 2001-2011, as this detailed field of education could not be separately identified before the introduction of the unit record applications and offers data collection in 2009. In this report, we present a comparison of figures from 2009 to 2011 for all Early Childhood Education applications.

In 2011, (Figure 6) there were 3725 applicants (applications) for Early Childhood courses, representing 15.7% of applicants for Education courses and 2779 applicants were offered a place in an Early Childhood Education course (14.8% of all Education offers). Compared with 2010, applicant numbers for Early Childhood Education in 2011 were 6.1% lower. Nevertheless, applications in 2011 were still higher than the 2009 level, which was 3428. The number of applicants for Teacher Education courses as a whole also decreased by 3.3%.

The demand for Early Childhood Education courses may, in part, reflect measures introduced in the 2008-09 Budget designed to encourage enrolments in this area. These measures include an additional 500 university places for early childhood teachers starting in 2009 and rising to 1500 places in 2011; and reducing HELP debt repayments for early childhood teachers who work in regional and remote areas, Indigenous communities and areas of high disadvantage.

It should be noted that due to the classification of courses, some persons seeking to train as Early Childhood educators may be applying for courses which are not specifically classified as Early Childhood Education courses in applications data.

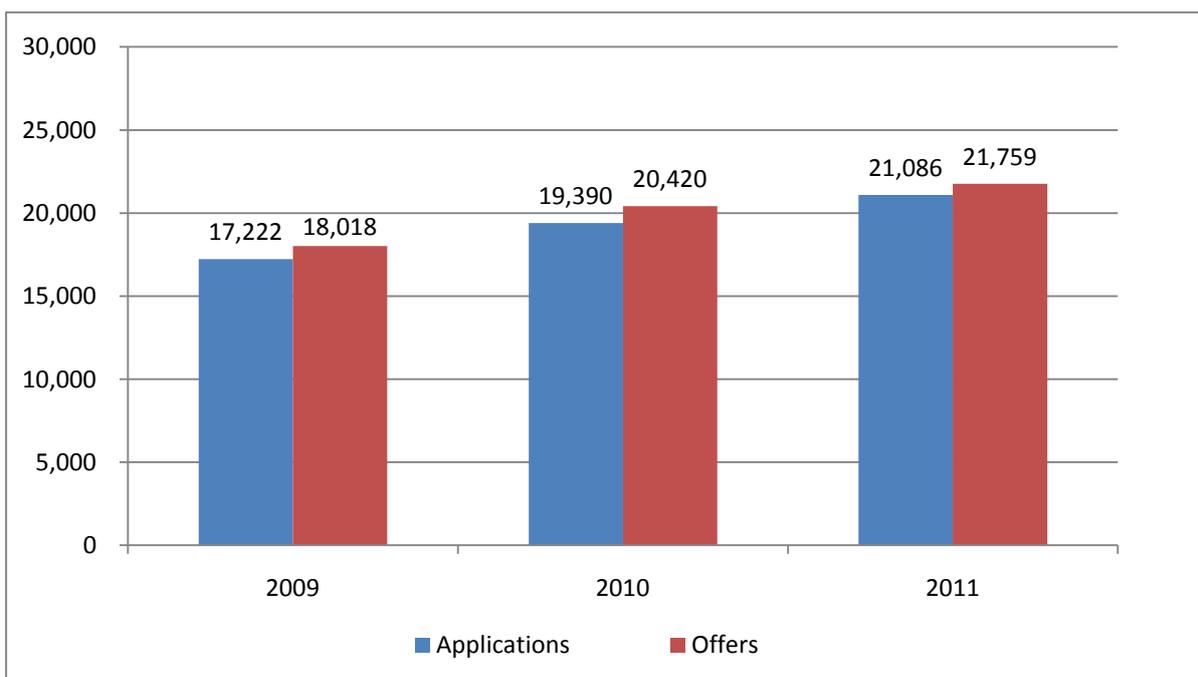
**Figure 6: Applicants and offers, Early Childhood Education, 2011**



*Trends in key skills areas – Natural and Physical Sciences*

The number of applicants (applications) for Natural and Physical Sciences in 2011 rose to 21 759, an increase of 8.7% compared with 2010. Offers to eligible applicants increased by 6.6% in 2011. Total domestic applications for Mathematical Science (a subset of Natural and Physical Sciences) slightly decreased from 401 in 2010 to 396 in 2011 (down 1.2%). Offers also decreased during this period (from 409 to 391, down by 4.4%). The offer rate for Mathematical Science is 98.7% in 2011 which is 4.5 percentage points lower than the offer rate for Natural and Physical Sciences. These numbers represent highest preferences and it should be noted that applicants who may be applying to study Mathematical Science as a second major or combined with another field of education may not be captured.

**Figure 7: Eligible applicants and offers, Natural and Physical Sciences, 2009-2011**



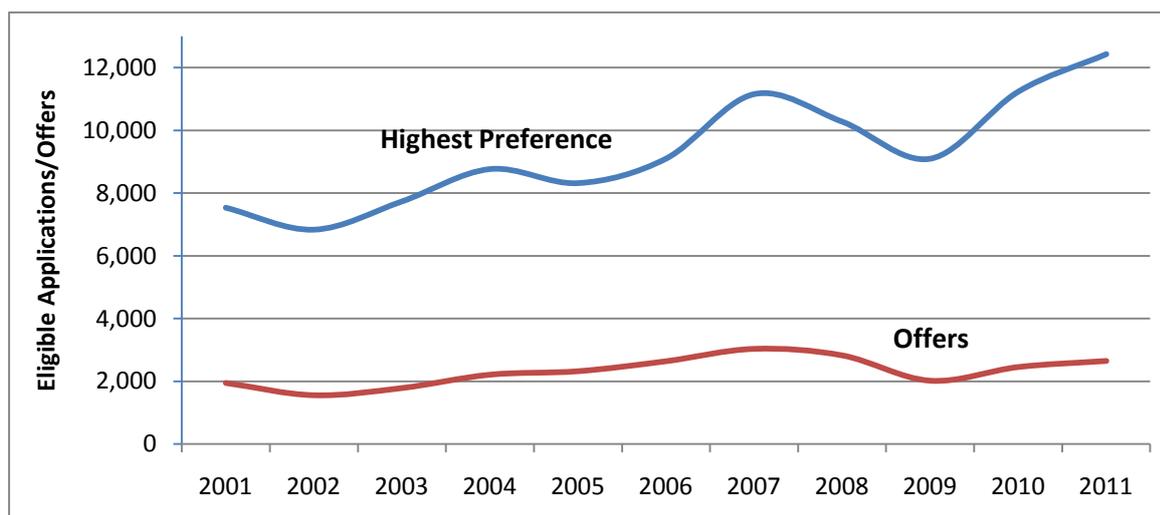
### *Trends in key skills areas – Medical Studies*

The number of eligible applicants (applications) for Medical Studies increased by 10.6% (12 425) in 2011 (Figure 8) following strong growth (23.5%) in 2010. The number of eligible applicants in 2011 was markedly higher than levels observed in the first half of the decade. Eligible applicant numbers increased by 64.9% between 2001 and 2011.

Offers to eligible applicants increased by 7.9% in 2011 following strong growth (21.7%) in 2010. The number of offers to eligible applicants in 2011 was 36.3% higher than the 2001 level. The offer rate fell slightly in 2011 to 21.3%, following a drop of three percentage points in 2010. The 2011 offer rate was the lowest in the series.

Medical Studies is one of a number of fields (including other Health fields) where the supply of places depends not only on the number of university places available, but also on the availability of practical training placements.

**Figure 8: Eligible applicants and offers, Medical Studies, 2001-2011**

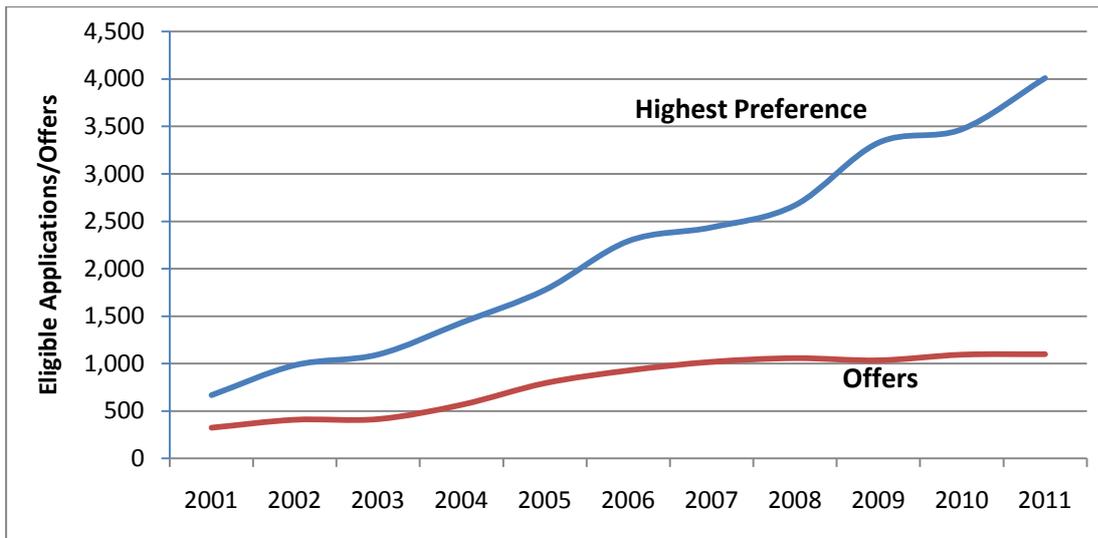


### *Trends in key skills areas – Dental Studies*

In 2011 eligible applicants (applications) to Dental Studies increased by 15.6% (to 4010) in 2011 (Figure 9). As shown in Figure 9, demand for Dental Studies increased every year since 2001. The increase observed in 2011 was smaller than most years in the series. Nevertheless, the number of eligible applicants in 2011 was over six times higher than the 2001 figure (666).

Offers to eligible applicants increased slightly by 0.5% in 2011. Between 2001 and 2011, there was more than a threefold increase in offers. The offer rate for eligible applicants in 2011 (27.5%) was 4.1 percentage points higher than the 2010 offer rate.

**Figure 9: Eligible applicants and offers, Dental Studies, 2001-2011**



*Trends in key skills areas – Engineering*

Demand for Engineering increased by 5.6% in 2011. The number of eligible applicants (applications) in 2011 (16 634) was the highest in the current series due to strong growth in demand over the previous several years (Figure 10). Eligible applicants for engineering courses increased successively for six years to 2011. Demand for Engineering grew by 38.0% between 2001 and 2011.

Eligible offers also increased by 2.9% in 2011. The number of offers to eligible applicants in 2011 (14 234) was the highest in the series and was 29.2% higher than the 2001 figure. In 2011 the offer rate fell by 2.2 percentage points to 85.6%. This was above the national average for offers to eligible applicants (82.6%).

**Figure 10: Eligible applicants and offers, Engineering, 2001-2011**



## 8. Type of University

### Applications

Applications by type of university show that the non-aligned universities (19 out of 37 public universities are non-aligned) received the largest share (31.9%) of applications in 2011, followed by the Group of Eight universities (30.8%). Innovative Research Universities Australia (IRUA) and Technology universities received 17.5% and 19.8%, respectively. See Appendix Table A11.1 for a listing of universities by type of university.

In 2011, except Technology Universities, all other type of universities have marginally increased their share of applications (between 0.4 and 0.7 percentage points) compared with 2010. Technology universities' share of applications fell by 1.4 percentage points.

**Table 36: Applications by type of university, 2010 and 2011**

Type of university	2010		2011	
	Applications	Share (%)	Applications	Share (%)
Innovative Research Universities Australia	45,836	17.2%	47,646	17.6%
Group of Eight	81,143	30.4%	83,404	30.8%
Technology	56,670	21.2%	53,614	19.8%
Non-aligned	83,347	31.2%	86,453	31.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>266,996</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>271,117</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### Offers

The non-aligned universities also had the largest share of offers in 2011 (37.9%) and this was 2.1 percentage points higher than their share of offers in 2010 (Table 37). The Group of Eight universities' decreased their share by 0.4 percentage points. Offer rates were lowest for Group of Eight universities (65.5%), with offer rates decreasing slightly by 0.7 percentage points from 2010. The Technology universities' share of offers also fell by 1.7 percentage points (from 19.4% to 17.7%). Non-aligned universities recorded the highest offer rates (92.9%) well above the national average of 78.1%. Offer rates for Innovative Research Universities (82.6%) were also higher than the national average and this is a decrease of 0.5 percentage points since 2010.

**Table 37: Offers and offer rates by type of university, 2010 and 2011**

Type of university	2010			2011		
	Offers	Share (%)	Offer rates (%)	Offers	Share (%)	Offer rates (%)
Innovative Research Universities Australia	38,109	18.6%	83.1%	39,346	18.6%	82.6%
Group of Eight	53,730	26.2%	66.2%	54,662	25.8%	65.5%
Technology	39,654	19.4%	70.0%	37,370	17.7%	69.7%
Non-aligned	73,301	35.8%	87.9%	80,276	37.9%	92.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>204,794</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>76.7%</b>	<b>211,654</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>78.1%</b>

The non-aligned universities recorded the largest share of acceptances (35.7%) (Table 38). The Group of Eight universities constitute the second largest share of acceptances (26.7%) despite a decrease by 0.3 percentage points from 2010. Innovative Research Universities recorded 18.6% of the share of acceptances, a decrease of 0.8 percentage points from 2010.

The Technology universities recorded the highest acceptance rate in 2011 (88.2%), followed by the Group of Eight universities (84.4%). The Innovative Research Universities (81.8%) was at par with the national average and the non-aligned universities (76.9%) recorded lower than the national average.

**Table 38: Acceptances and acceptance rates by type of university, 2010 and 2011\***

Type of university	2010			2011		
	Acceptances	Share (%)	Acceptance rates (%)	Acceptances	Share (%)	Acceptance rates (%)
Innovative Research Universities Australia	33,190	19.4%	87.1%	32,203	18.6%	81.8%
Group of Eight	46,144	27.0%	85.9%	46,137	26.7%	84.4%
Technology	34,155	20.0%	86.1%	32,970	19.0%	88.2%
Non-aligned	57,594	33.7%	78.6%	61,761	35.7%	76.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>171,083</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>83.5%</b>	<b>173,071</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>81.8%</b>

\*Acceptances include Deferrals, hence acceptance rates differ from rates presented in Chapter 5.

### *Field of Education*

In 2011, (Table 39) the non-aligned universities had the largest number of applications in four fields of education: Health (21 756), Management and Commerce (12 685), Education (11 894) and Information Technology (2457). The Group of Eight Universities recorded the largest number of applications in Society and Culture (23 068), Natural and Physical Sciences (10 598), Engineering and Related Technologies (6913) and Agriculture and Related Studies (2298). The Technology universities recorded the largest number of applications in both Creative Arts (10 658) and Architecture and Building (4887).

**Table 39: Applications by type of university by field of education, 2011**

Field of Education	IRUA	Go8	Technology	Non-Aligned	Total
Natural & Physical Sciences	3,261	10,598	2,572	4,655	<b>21,086</b>
Information Technology	1,031	1,052	2,318	2,457	<b>6,858</b>
Engineering & Related Technologies	2,003	6,913	4,231	4,180	<b>17,327</b>
Architecture & Building	763	2,480	4,887	1,447	<b>9,577</b>
Agriculture, Environmental & Related Studies	820	2,298	203	987	<b>4,308</b>
Health	16,572	18,583	10,129	21,756	<b>67,040</b>
Education	5,705	2,246	3,952	11,894	<b>23,797</b>
Management & Commerce	4,435	9,365	8,860	12,685	<b>35,345</b>
Society & Culture	9,358	23,068	5,804	17,629	<b>55,859</b>
Creative Arts	3,698	6,800	10,658	6,843	<b>27,999</b>
<b>Total*</b>	<b>47,646</b>	<b>83,404</b>	<b>53,614</b>	<b>86,453</b>	<b>271,117</b>

\*Total includes Hospitality and Personal Services, and Mixed field programs

Offers by of field of education (Table 40) broadly followed the patterns observed in relation to applications.

The non-aligned universities recorded the highest offer rates for most of the fields of education (Table 40) and exceeded 100% for six fields of education: for Natural and Physical Sciences (126.3%), Information Technology (100.5%), Management and Commerce (105.2%), Society and Culture (105.2%) and Creative arts (103.5%). The Group of Eight had the highest offer rate for Agriculture and Environmental Studies (95.7%) and the Technology universities had the highest offer rate for Health (70.4%). Innovative Research Universities recorded the highest offer rate in Society and Culture (107.9%).

**Table 40: Offers by type of university by field of education, 2011**

Field of Education	IRUA	Go8	Technology	Non-Aligned	Total
Natural & Physical Sciences	3,203	9,662	3,013	5,881	21,759
Information Technology	972	753	1,824	2,470	6,019
Engineering & Related Technologies	1,771	5,306	3,355	4,064	14,496
Architecture & Building	711	1,549	2,568	1,496	6,324
Agriculture, Environmental & Related Studies	762	2,199	188	942	4,091
Health	10,772	7,338	7,130	14,927	40,167
Education	4,448	1,279	2,854	9,913	18,494
Management & Commerce	4,279	6,315	6,414	13,342	30,350
Society & Culture	10,099	16,287	4,353	18,537	49,276
Creative Arts	2,329	3,974	5,671	7,084	19,058
<b>Total*</b>	<b>39,346</b>	<b>54,662</b>	<b>37,370</b>	<b>80,276</b>	<b>211,654</b>

\*Total includes Hospitality and Personal Services, and Mixed field programs

**Table 41: Offer rates by type of university by field of education, 2011**

Field of Education	IRUA	Go8	Technology	Non-Aligned	Total
Natural & Physical Sciences	98.2%	91.2%	117.1%	126.3%	103.2%
Information Technology	94.3%	71.6%	78.7%	100.5%	87.8%
Engineering & Related Technologies	88.4%	76.8%	79.3%	97.2%	83.7%
Architecture & Building	93.2%	62.5%	52.5%	103.4%	66.0%
Agriculture, Environmental & Related Studies	92.9%	95.7%	92.6%	95.4%	95.0%
Health	65.0%	39.5%	70.4%	68.6%	59.9%
Education	78.0%	56.9%	72.2%	83.3%	77.7%
Management & Commerce	96.5%	67.4%	72.4%	105.2%	85.9%
Society & Culture	107.9%	70.6%	75.0%	105.2%	88.2%
Creative Arts	63.0%	58.4%	53.2%	103.5%	68.1%
<b>Total*</b>	<b>82.6%</b>	<b>65.5%</b>	<b>69.7%</b>	<b>92.9%</b>	<b>78.1%</b>

\*Total includes Hospitality and Personal Services, and Mixed field programs

## 9. Under-Represented Groups

### *Concepts and methods*

Applicant data includes postcode of permanent home residence. This postcode data can be used to construct indicators of both applicants' geographic location or regionality, and applicants' socioeconomic status (SES). The collection also provides information on applicants' self-reported Indigenous status.

To categorise applicants by regionality, postcodes are coded into three groups (metropolitan, regional, remote) based on the Ministerial Council on Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA) classification of regions. The MCEETYA Classification of Geographical Location incorporates the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA) and maintains comparability with the Rural, Remote and Metropolitan areas Classification (Department of Primary Industries and Energy/Department of Human Affairs and Health, 1994), which uses Census data to identify statistical local areas of population density.

To derive an estimate of an applicant's SES, postcodes are categorised by the ABS Socio-Economic Index for Areas (SEIFA) Index of Education and Occupation (IEO).

Using postcode as an indicator of SES has a number of well known methodological and theoretical limitations. The Bradley Review recommended that better measures of SES be developed based on the circumstances of individual students. In 2010, DEEWR developed an interim measure of SES as an indicator of the participation of students from a low socioeconomic status background. This measure includes undergraduate award students only. In order to be consistent with the Government ambition that by 2020, 20% of undergraduate higher education students will be from a low SES background. The interim measure has two constituent components:

- The first is based on the number of undergraduates with home addresses in the lowest SEIFA Index of Education and Occupation quartile measured at Census Collection District (CD) level and as recorded in the Higher Education Students Data Collection.
- The second part of the interim indicator is based on the number of undergraduates receiving selected Centrelink student payments.

DEEWR is currently investigating the changes required to allow the more accurate CD based SEIFA component of the interim measure to be available on the applications and offers database.

The interim measure has been used to allocate funding for the Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program (HEPPP) and is used in Compact funding negotiations and to set Performance Funding targets.

DEEWR is working on the development of an enhanced measure and currently investigating the feasibility of including information on parental education, parental occupation and school background. This report retains the SES measure based on postcode which enables comparison with 2010 applications and offers data.

Note that indicators of regionality and SES do not include applicants with residential addresses outside Australia, or those Australian resident applicants who did not enter a valid postcode on their applications.

While the applications and offers data collection includes reasonable coverage of SES, regionality and Indigenous status, no data were collected on other equity groups such as applicants with a disability or applicants from a non-English speaking background, as these data are not collected by TACs.

### Regionality

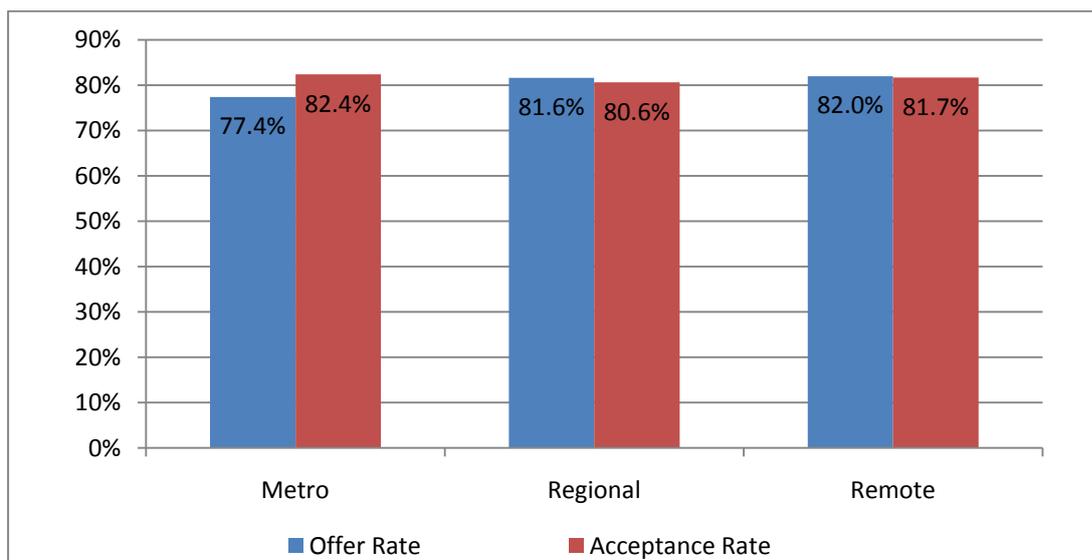
Analysis of applicant data shows that just over three quarters of applicants (applications) (76.6%) living in Australia came from metropolitan areas. This is higher than the metropolitan population share in Australia (71.4%),<sup>5</sup> demonstrating that metropolitan people are over-represented in the pool of domestic applicants. Just over one fifth of domestic applicants (20.8%) were from regional areas, less than their population share of 26.3%. Only 1.1% of applicants were from remote areas compared with their population share of 2.1%. Around 1.5% of all applicants gave addresses outside Australia.

By region, growth in applications from metropolitan residents (1.8%) was higher than the increase in applications from regional residents (0.03%) and remote residents (0.4%) Note that, the growth in metropolitan applicants is from a large base. Growth in regional and remote applications combined was only 0.05%.

Regional and remote applicants were somewhat more likely to receive an offer than were metropolitan applicants (Figure 11): 82.0% of remote applicants and 81.6% of regional applicants received offers, compared to 77.4% of metropolitan applicants. Compared to 2010, offers to regional applicants grew by 1.9% and offers to remote applicants grew by 1.7%. For metropolitan applicants, the increase was 3.7%. Growth in non-metropolitan applicants (regional and remote) at 1.9% was smaller than growth in metropolitan applicants.

There is a little difference in acceptance rates (including deferrals) between metropolitan and non-metropolitan applicants (Figure 11). Some 82.4% of metropolitan applicants with an offer accepted their offer, compared with 80.6% of regional applicants and only 81.7% of remote applicants.

**Figure 11: Offer rate and acceptance rate by regionality, 2011**



<sup>5</sup> ABS, (2006) Census of Population and Housing

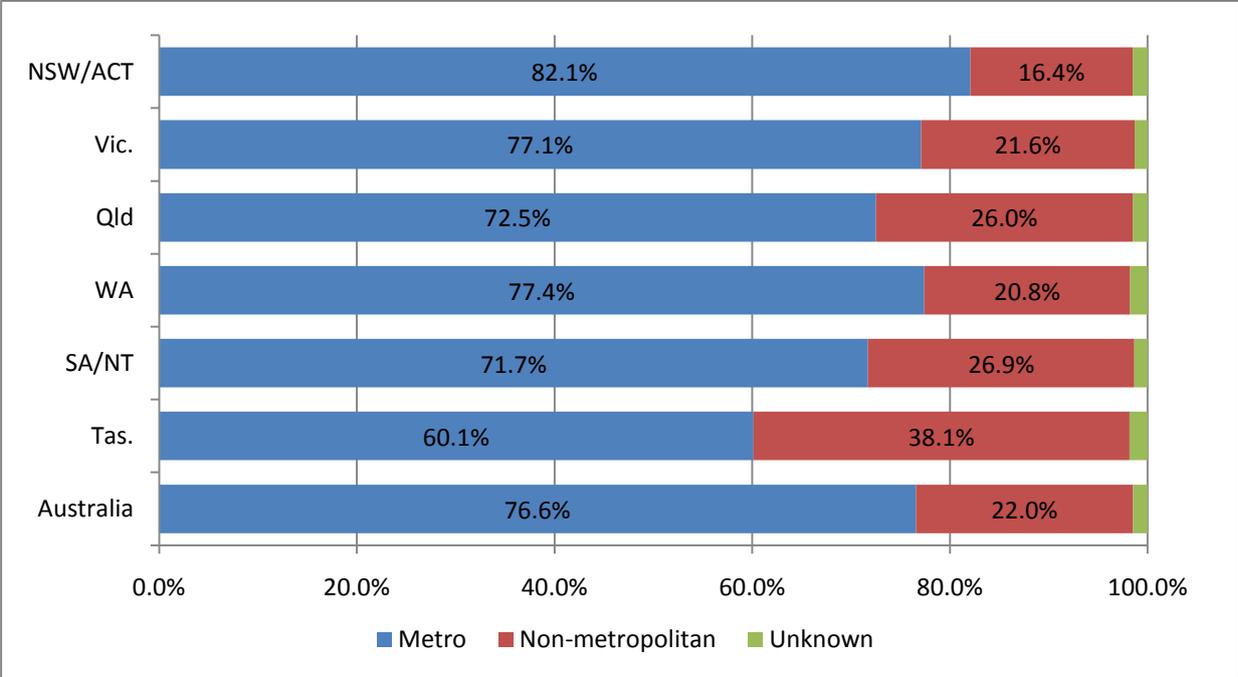
The pattern of under-representation of regional and remote people in the initial stage of applying to university translates into lower participation at university. Commencement data from the Higher Education Statistics Collection (HESC) shows that, in 2010, regional students accounted for 19.1%<sup>6</sup> of all domestic undergraduate students compared with their population share of 26.3%. Similarly, remote students made up 1.1% of domestic students compared with their population share of 2.1%. As reported above, the share of applications of regional and remote students was 20.8% and 1.1% respectively. This suggests that it is the lower propensity to apply for university entry among non-metropolitan students, and not the likelihood of receiving an offer that is the biggest contributing factor to the lower enrolments of regional and remote students at university.

By state and territory, the proportion of all applicants from metropolitan areas ranged from 60.1% in Tasmania up to 82.1% in New South Wales/Australian Capital Territory (Figure 12). The proportion was 77.4% in Western Australia and just over 77.1% in Victoria. In Queensland and South Australia/Northern Territory it was around 72%. There were very few applicants from remote areas. There were only 3033 remote applicants in the whole of Australia. Queensland recorded the highest number of remote applicants (940) followed by South Australia/Northern Territory with 858 remote applicants.

In all states except Victoria, non-metropolitan applicants recorded a higher offer rate than metropolitan applicants.

In most states, metropolitan applicants were more likely to accept offers. In Tasmania and Western Australia, however, metropolitan applicants were somewhat less likely to accept offers than non-metropolitan applicants.

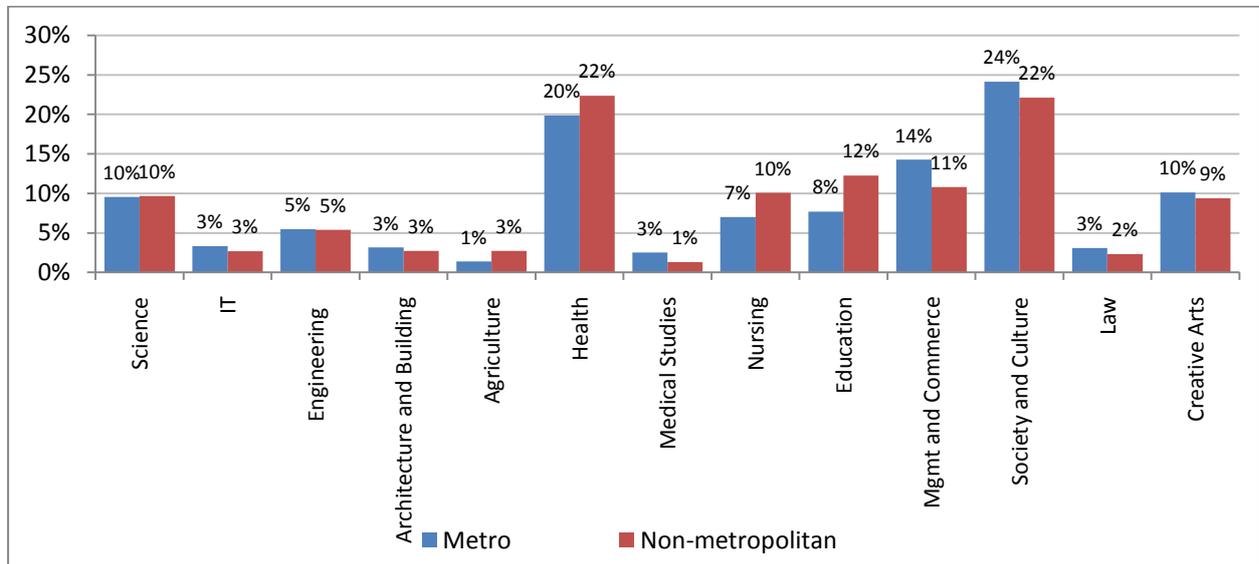
**Figure 12: Share of total applicants by regionality and state and territory, 2011**



<sup>6</sup> DEEWR (2010), Selected Higher Education Statistics: Students

Figure 13 shows preferences by field of education and regionality. Non-metropolitan applicants are more likely to apply for courses in Nursing and Education. Non-metropolitan students are also more likely to apply in the field of Agriculture, Environmental and Related Studies.

**Figure 13: Proportion of highest preference applications by regionality and field of education, 2011**



Applicants from non-metropolitan areas are more likely to apply to non-aligned universities (41.7%) or Innovative Research Universities (22.4%) (Table 42). On the other hand, Metropolitan students are more likely to apply to Group of Eight universities (32.8%) and least likely to apply to Innovative Research Universities (16.2%)

**Table 42: Applications by regionality and type of university, 2011**

Type of university	Applications 2011		Share of applications (%)	
	Metropolitan	Non-metropolitan	Metropolitan	Non-metropolitan
Innovative Research Universities Australia	33,687	13,318	16.2%	22.4%
Group of Eight	68,183	12,836	32.8%	21.6%
Technology	44,724	8,533	21.5%	14.3%
Non-aligned	60,994	24,857	29.4%	41.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>207,589</b>	<b>59,543</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Distribution of offers by university type (Table 43) largely followed the distribution of applications. Overall, offer rates for non-metropolitan students (81.6%) were higher than for metropolitan students (77.4%). Differences in offer rates between metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas varied by university type - from 1.6 percentage points (Innovative Research Universities) to 0.2 percentage points (non-aligned).

**Table 43: Offers and offer rates by regionality and type of university, 2011**

Type of university	Offers		Offer rates	
	Metropolitan	Non-metropolitan	Metropolitan	Non-metropolitan
Innovative Research Universities Australia	28,106	10,894	83.4%	81.8%
Group of Eight	44,815	8,622	65.7%	67.2%
Technology	31,095	6,014	69.5%	70.5%
Non-aligned	56,709	23,071	93.0%	92.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>160,725</b>	<b>48,601</b>	<b>77.4%</b>	<b>81.6%</b>

### *Socioeconomic status*

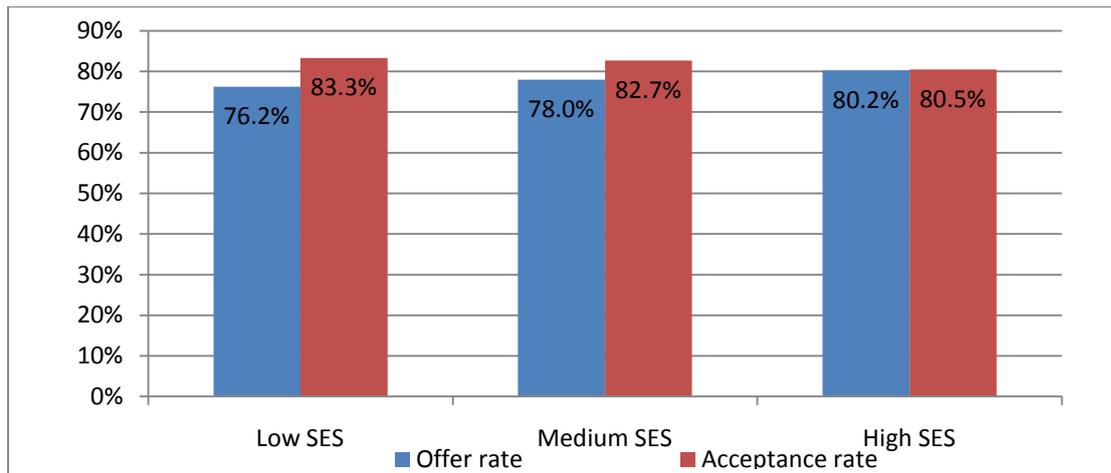
Postcode data allows classification of applicants by SES. Some 5039 applicants (1.9%) could not be assigned to an SES classification because they were living outside of Australia, living in postcodes whose SES could not be determined; or because they had not provided data on postcode.

High SES applicants (applications) were over-represented among the pool of applicants. Nearly one third (30.6%) of applicants were from high SES backgrounds, defined as the top quartile of the postcodes rank ordered according to SEIFA IEO. Medium SES applicants (defined as the middle two quartiles, that is, half of the population) represent 49.0% of domestic applicants – roughly equivalent to their population share. People from low SES backgrounds were, on the other hand, under-represented. Only 18.6% of domestic applicants were from low SES backgrounds in comparison with their population share of 25%.

While low SES applicants remain under-represented, their numbers have increased faster than applicants in other SES categories. Applications from low SES persons increased by 2.4% in 2011, compared to 1.6% for medium SES persons and 0.6% for high SES persons.

In addition to being less likely to apply for university entry, persons from low SES backgrounds who apply to university are slightly less likely to receive an offer. As shown in Figure 14, high SES applicants had the highest offer rate of 80.2%. Medium SES applicants were slightly less successful (78.0% received an offer) and low SES applicants were less successful again with 76.2% receiving an offer. Offers to low SES applicants increased by 4.5%, compared to 3.6% for medium and 1.9% for high SES applicants. In terms of accepting an offer, applicants from low SES had the highest acceptance rate (83.3 %) followed by applicants from medium SES (82.7%) and applicants from high SES (80.5%).

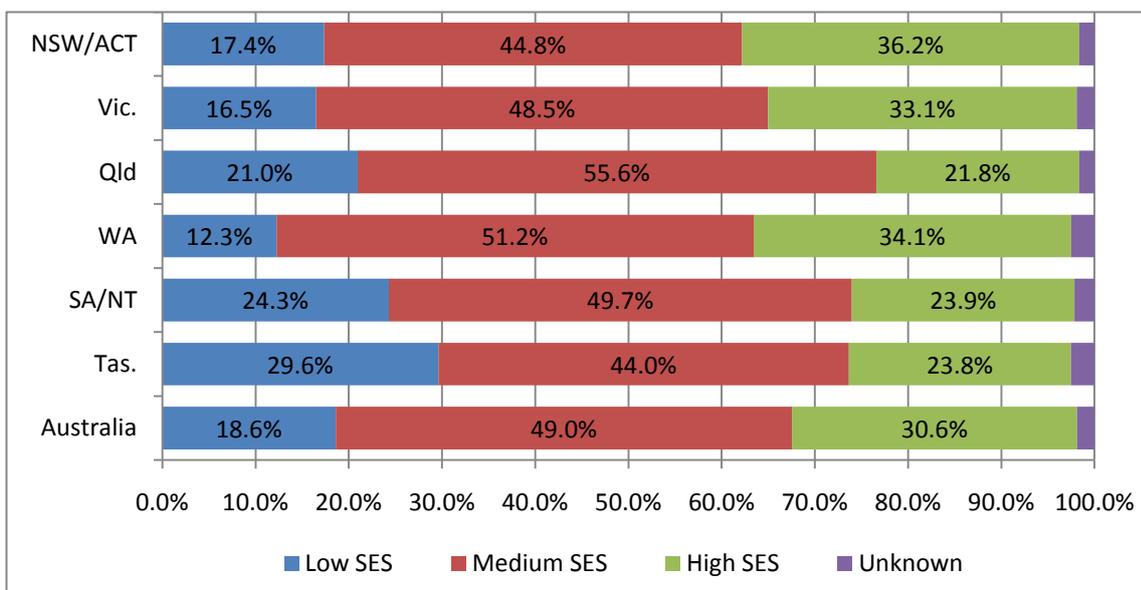
**Figure 14: Offer rate and acceptance rate by SES, 2011**



The pattern of under-representation of low SES persons in applications and offers data translates into lower participation at university. In 2010, low SES students constituted 16.5%<sup>7</sup> of domestic undergraduate students. While low SES share of enrolments is slightly lower than their share of applications (18.6%), it is the lower propensity to apply for university, and not lower offer rates, which appears to be the bigger contributing factor to the low enrolment of low SES persons at university.

The pattern of distribution of applicants by SES at the national level was reproduced state by state (Figure 15). High SES applicants were particularly over-represented in New South Wales/Australian Capital Territory (36.2%), Western Australia (34.1%) and Victoria (33.1%). Low SES applicants made up only 12.3% of the total in Western Australia, but 29.6% in Tasmania and 24.3% in SA/NT.

**Figure 15: Share of total applicants by SES and state and territory, 2011**



<sup>7</sup> DEEWR (2010), Selected Higher Education Statistics: Students. Note that domestic students with a permanent home address outside Australia are excluded from the calculation.

Application preferences by field of education show that, similar to regional students, low SES persons are more likely to apply for courses in Education and Nursing (Figure 16) and less likely to apply for high demand courses such as Medical Studies and Law.

**Figure 16: Proportion of highest preferences by SES and field of education, 2011**

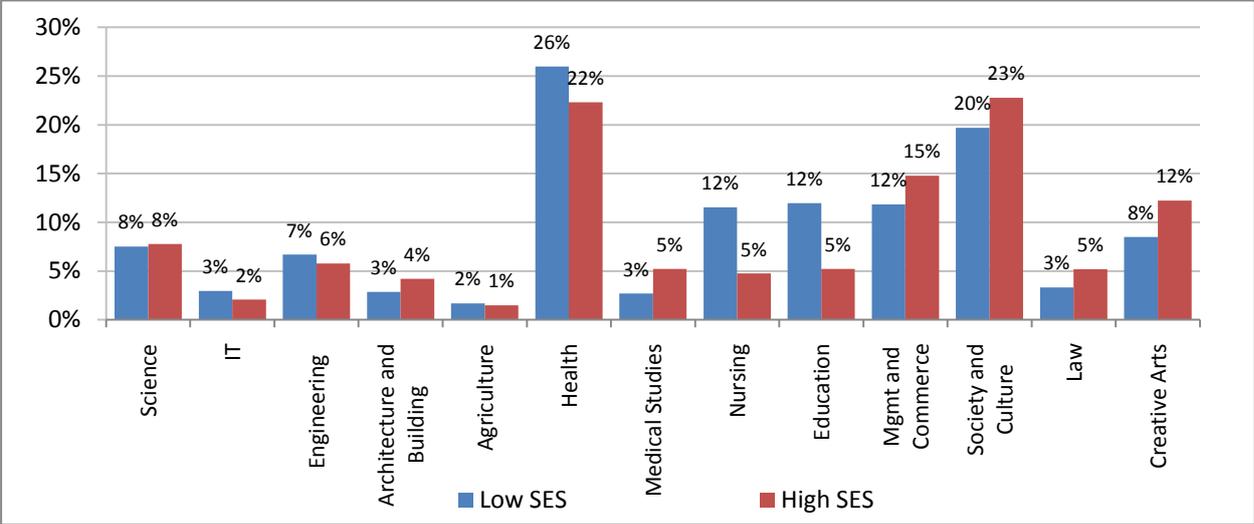


Table 44 shows that low SES applicants were more likely than their high SES counterparts to be attending Technology universities (38.1% and 25.5% respectively). The Group of Eight universities accounted for the biggest share by far of applications from high SES applicants (43.2%) and the difference in the share of high and low SES applications was highest (22.6 percentage points) at these universities.

**Table 44: Applications by SES and type of university, 2011**

Type of university	Applications by SES			Share of applications by SES		
	High	Medium	Low	High	Medium	Low
Innovative Research Universities Australia	8,018	27,468	11,237	9.7%	20.7%	22.3%
Group of Eight	35,819	34,525	10,399	43.2%	26.0%	20.6%
Technology	17,885	25,603	9,583	25.5%	19.3%	38.1%
Non-aligned	21,176	45,138	19,227	21.6%	34.0%	19.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>82,898</b>	<b>132,734</b>	<b>50,446</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Table 45 shows applications by low SES applicants grew faster (2.4%) than applications on average (1.5%) in 2011. Growth in low SES applications was strongest at the Group of Eight (5.4%) followed by Innovative Research Universities (5.3%) and non-aligned universities (2.5%). On the other hand, applications by low SES applicants to the Technology universities decreased by 3.9%.

**Table 45: Applications by low SES applicants by type of university, 2010 and 2011**

Type of university	Applications by low SES applicants		
	2010	2011	Change (%)
Innovative Research Universities Australia	10,671	11,237	5.3%
Group of Eight	9,868	10,399	5.4%
Technology	9,970	9,583	-3.9%
Non-aligned	18,764	19,227	2.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>49,273</b>	<b>50,446</b>	<b>2.4%</b>

Low SES applicants received a lower offer rate than high SES applicants across all types of universities (Table 46). The gap in offer rates was least in the Technology universities (8.2 percentage points) and largest in the non-aligned universities (12.3 percentage points).

**Table 46: Offers and offer rates by SES and type of university, 2011**

Type of university	Offers by SES			Offer rates by SES		
	High	Medium	Low	High	Medium	Low
Innovative Research Universities Australia	7,150	22,665	8,937	89.2%	82.5%	79.5%
Group of Eight	24,974	21,944	6,339	69.7%	63.6%	61.0%
Technology	13,169	17,540	6,263	73.6%	68.5%	65.4%
Non-aligned	21,212	41,376	16,907	100.2%	91.7%	87.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>66,505</b>	<b>103,525</b>	<b>38,446</b>	<b>80.2%</b>	<b>78.0%</b>	<b>76.2%</b>

### *Indigenous status*

Data on Indigenous status is based on a self-identification question on TAC application forms. It is widely believed that many Indigenous applicants do not identify as Indigenous at the point of application. University commencements data from HESC show a somewhat higher proportion of Indigenous students at commencement (1.5%) than the share of applicants from Indigenous background (1.1%). However, Indigenous applicants are more likely to apply directly to universities and represent 2.9% of direct applicants (see Chapter 11 for details).

Across Australia, 2995 applicants (applications) identified as Indigenous (Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, or both). Indigenous applicants are under-represented in the pool of overall applicants. Indigenous people constitute around 2.5%<sup>8</sup> of the general Australian population.

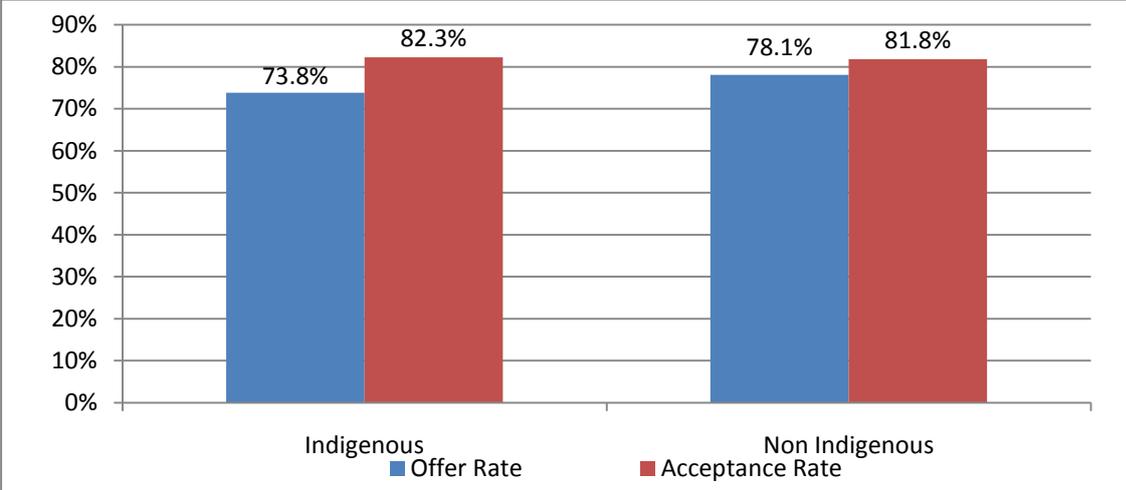
Offers were received by 2211 Indigenous applicants. The 2011 offer rate for Indigenous applicants was 73.8%, 4.3 percentage points lower than the offer rate for applicants who did not identify as Indigenous (Figure 17). Acceptance rates also broadly follow a similar pattern. Of those who received an offer 1819 (82.3%) of Indigenous applicants accepted an offer – fairly consistent with the 81.8% acceptance rate among non-Indigenous applicants.

<sup>8</sup> ABS, Experimental Estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, Jun 2006, Cat. No. 3238.0.55.001

In 2010, Indigenous students constituted 1.3% of the domestic higher education undergraduate students compared to their population share of 2.5%.<sup>9</sup> The rate at which Indigenous people apply to university explains much of their under-representation in higher education, however, the gap in offer rates between Indigenous and non-Indigenous applicants is bigger when compared with other under-represented groups.

Although the number of applications from Indigenous applicants dropped from 3046 in 2010 to 2995 in 2011, growth in offers in 2011 was encouraging. Compared with 2010, offers to Indigenous applicants increased by more than 100 in 2011.

**Figure 17: Offer rate and acceptance rate by Indigenous status, 2011**



The states and territories with the highest proportions of Indigenous applicants were SA/NT and Tasmania (1.6% and 1.7%), though the absolute number of Indigenous applicants in SA/NT (398) was more than twice as high as in Tasmania (182) (Table 47). This reflects the high proportion of Indigenous persons in these states. In South Australia/Northern Territory Indigenous people represent 5.2% of the population whilst in Tasmania Indigenous people account for 3.8% of the population.<sup>10</sup>

Indigenous applications constitute 1.5% of applications in Queensland and 1.1% in New South Wales/Australian Capital Territory, but only 0.6% in Victoria and 0.7% Western Australia. The figure for Western Australia is low, given the relatively large Indigenous population in that state - 3.4% of the population identify as Indigenous.<sup>11</sup> Western Australia had the lowest absolute number of Indigenous applications (148). This may reflect a lower application rate by Indigenous persons in Western Australia or alternatively that applicants may be less inclined to identify their Indigenous status.

<sup>9</sup> DEEWR, (2010), Selected Higher Education Statistics: Students. Note that domestic students with a permanent home address outside Australia are excluded from the calculation.

<sup>10</sup> ABS, Experimental Estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, Jun 2006, Cat. No. 3238.0.55.001

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

**Table 47: Applications by Indigenous status and state and territory, 2011**

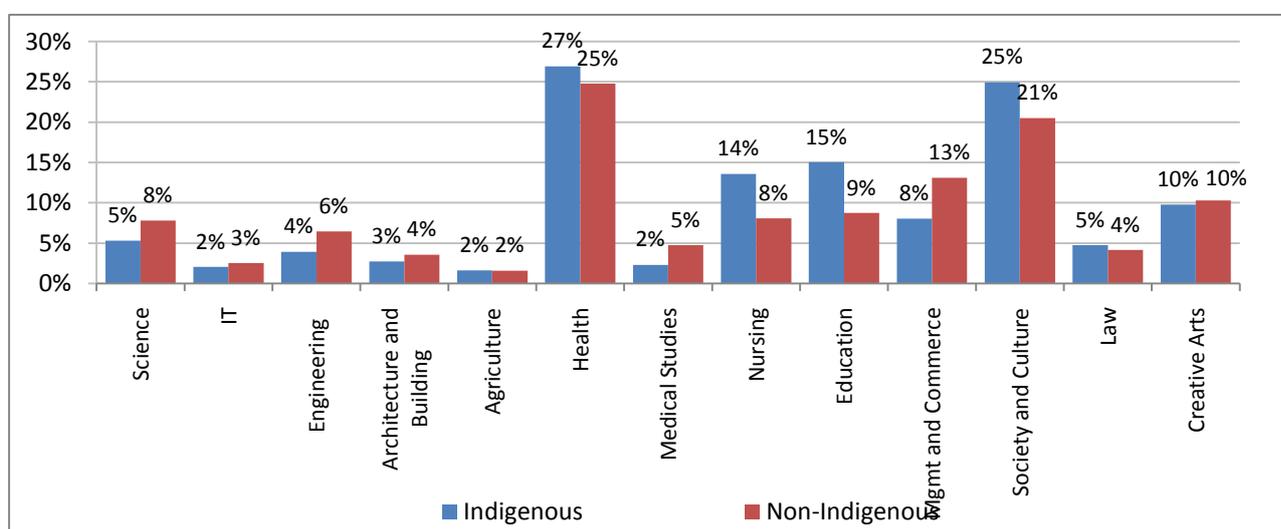
State	Indigenous applications	% of total
NSW/ACT	971	1.1%
Vic.	455	0.6%
Qld	841	1.5%
WA	148	0.7%
SA/NT	398	1.6%
Tas.	182	1.7%
<b>Australia</b>	<b>2,995</b>	<b>1.1%</b>

Offer rates for Indigenous applicants were lower in most states than offer rates for other applicants (by up to 11.3 percentage points), except for Tasmania and Queensland. The difference in offer rates was smallest in Queensland (-1.7 percentage points) and highest in Victoria (11.3 percentage points).

Indigenous applicants were more likely to receive offers in, Tasmania, Queensland and SA/NT. Indigenous applicants were slightly less likely to accept offers in New South Wales/Australian Capital Territory and Western Australia, and much less likely to accept in Victoria.

Similar to the total pool of applicants, the fields of education with the largest number of Indigenous applicants were Health (27%) and Society and Culture (25%). As with other under-represented groups, Indigenous applicants are more likely to apply for Education courses. Indigenous applicants were less likely to apply for Management and Commerce, Science and Medical Studies (Figure 18).

**Figure 18: Proportion of highest preferences by Indigenous status and field of education, 2011**



Indigenous applicants were much more likely to apply to Innovative Research Universities (39.8%) than were non-Indigenous applicants (17.4%). However, Indigenous applicants were much less likely to apply to the Group of Eight universities (17.9%) in comparison with non-Indigenous applicants (30.9%) (Table 48). Around thirty five percent (34.6%) of the Indigenous applicants and an almost similar percentage (31.9%) of non-Indigenous applicants applied to the non-aligned universities.

**Table 48: Applications by Indigenous status and type of university, 2011**

Type of university	Applications		Share (%)	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
Innovative Research Universities Australia	894	46,752	29.8%	17.4%
Group of Eight	537	82,867	17.9%	30.9%
Technology	527	53,087	17.6%	19.8%
Non-aligned	1,037	85,416	34.6%	31.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,995</b>	<b>268,122</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Except for the technology universities, Indigenous applicants were less likely to receive offers across all types of university than were non-Indigenous applicants (Table 49). The gap in offer rates was largest for non-aligned universities (14.2 percentage points) followed by the Group of Eight universities (6.0 percentage points).

**Table 49: Offer and offer rates by Indigenous status and type of university, 2011**

Type of university	Offers		Offer rates	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
Innovative Research Universities Australia	701	38,645	78.4%	82.7%
Group of Eight	320	54,342	59.6%	65.6%
Technology	373	36,997	70.8%	69.7%
Non-aligned	817	79,459	78.8%	93.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,211</b>	<b>209,443</b>	<b>73.8%</b>	<b>78.1%</b>

## 10. Current Year 12 Applications

In 2011, there were 143 907 applications by current Year 12 students – just over half (53.1%) of all applications made through TACs. Of these current Year 12 applicants, 139 077 had a valid ATAR score or equivalent. A further 4830 were not scored.

### *Propensity to apply*

Many current Year 12 applicants apply both interstate and in their home state, so that the applicant numbers shown above need to be adjusted to derive an estimate of the proportion of Year 12 students who apply for university. A reliable estimate can be derived by selecting current Year 12 applicants aged 20 or less who apply in their home state, and dividing this figure by the number of Year 12 students aged 20 or less in each state and territory.

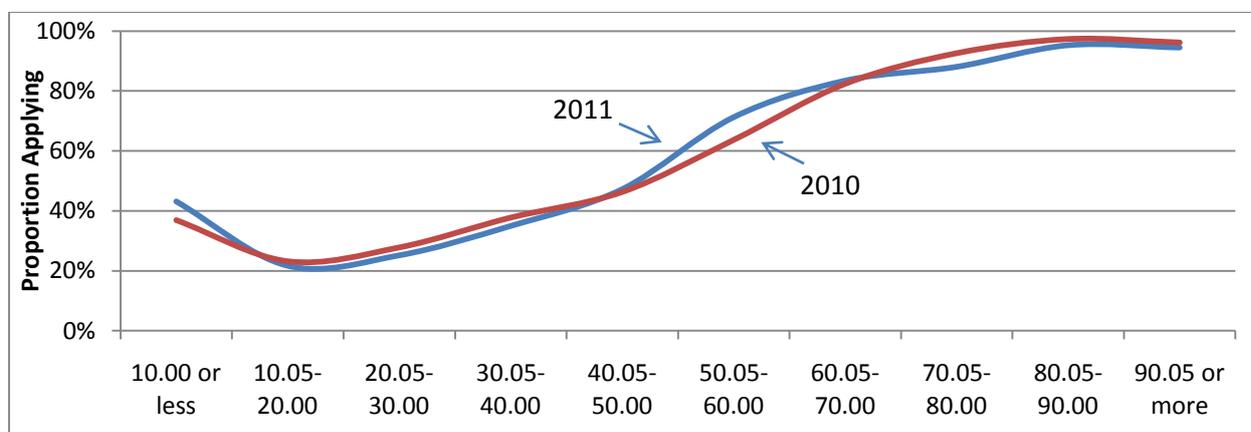
This calculation shows that 64.1% of Year 12 students applied for university in 2011. This is slightly lower than the 2010 figure (66.1%). The proportion of Year 12 students applying was nearly 8 percentage points higher than in 2005.

Predictably, there is a strong relationship between academic performance in Year 12 and propensity to apply for university. Figure 19 shows the proportion of Year 12 students in each ATAR decile band who applied for university. More than 92% of students in each of the top three deciles applied for university. Over 80% of students who received an ATAR in the 60.05-70.00 decile applied, as did more than 70% in the 50.05-60.00 decile. Even of those with ATARs below 50, fairly large numbers of students applied for university. Just over 47% of those in the 40.05-50.00 decile and slightly above a third (34.9%) of those in the 30.05-40.00 decile applied for university in 2011. Overall, 87.5% of students with an ATAR above 50 applied for university, compared to 38.3% of students who had an ATAR of 50 or below.

It is interesting to note that the home state application rate among students in the highest decile (90.05 and above) is lower than for students in the next decile (94.5% compared to 95.2%). The difference was similar in 2010, when 96.2% of students in the top decile applied for university in their home state, compared to 97.3% in the second-top decile.

Compared to 2010, the biggest increases in application rates were in the middle ATAR bands. Application rates in most of the lower bands fell.

**Figure 19: Proportion of Year 12 students aged 20 or less applying in their home state by ATAR decile band, 2010 and 2011**

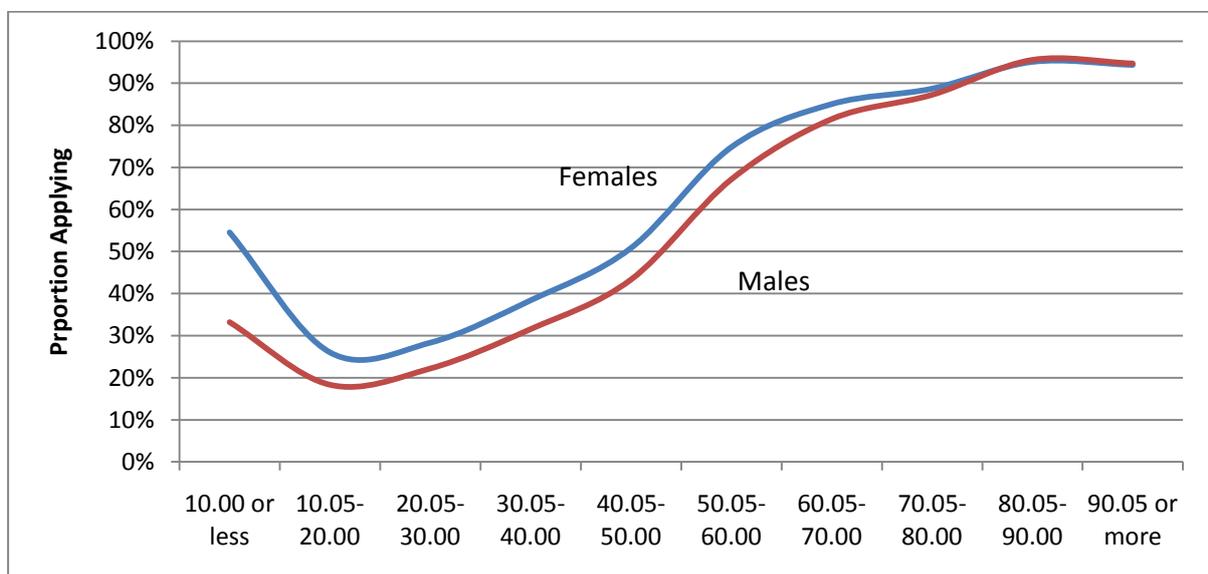


## Gender

Consistent with patterns in overall applications noted earlier, female Year 12 students were decidedly more likely to apply for university than males (Figure 20). There was a gap of 7.4 percentage points between the proportion of female Year 12 students applying in their home state (63.7%) and the comparable proportion of males (56.2%). This is slightly lower than the gender gap in 2010 (8.6 percentage points). In the top three ATAR deciles, however, male and female Year 12 students apply for university at similar rates.

The overall difference in applications between females and males is explained by the greater propensity of female Year 12 students in lower deciles to apply for university. Some 64.6% of female students in the ATAR range of 10.05 to 70.00 applied for university, compared with 56.0% of males.

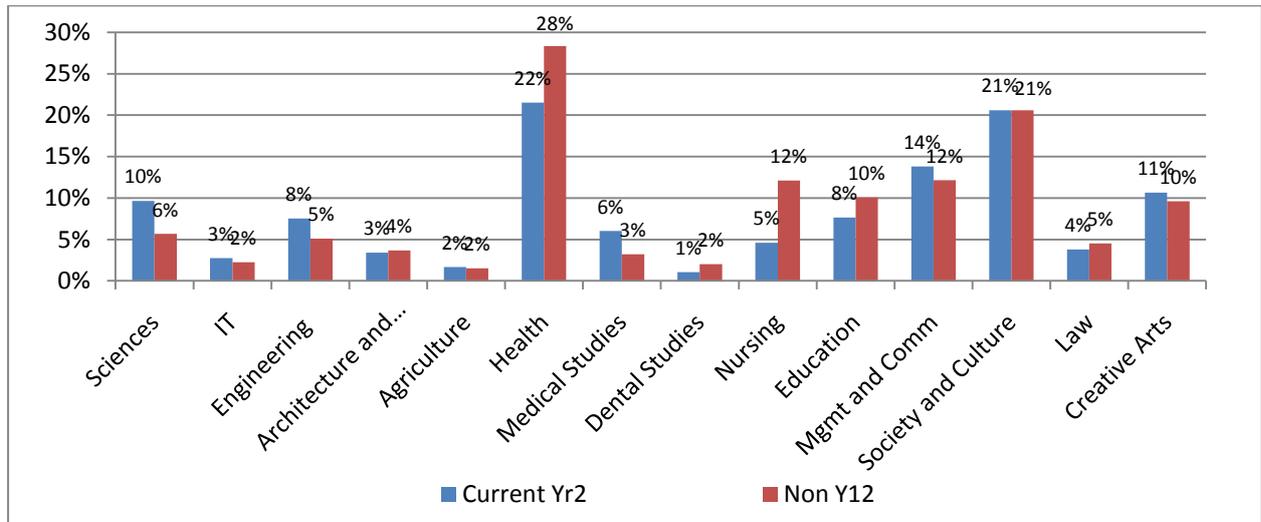
**Figure 20: Proportion of Year 12 students aged 20 or less applying in their home state by gender and ATAR decile band, 2011**



## Field of education

Non-Year 12 applicants were more likely to apply for health, nursing and education courses (Fig 21). By comparison, Year 12 applicants were more likely to apply for Natural and Physical Sciences, Engineering, Medical Studies and Management and Commerce.

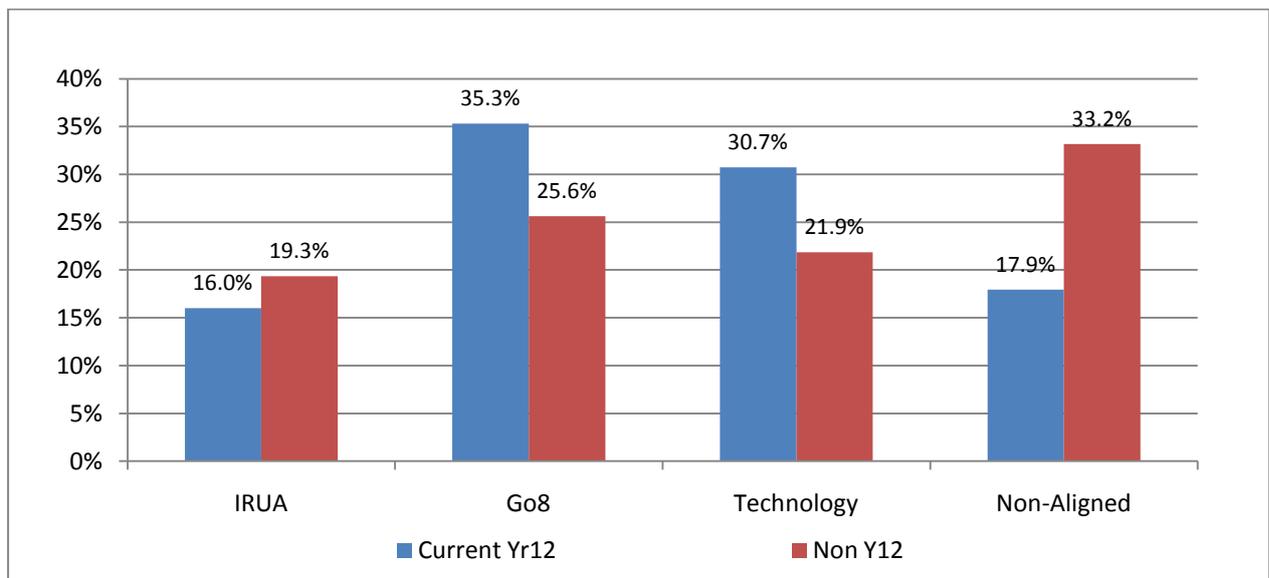
**Figure 21: Proportion of highest preferences by current Year 12 status and field of education, 2011**



### Type of university

A considerable proportion of Year 12 applicants' first preference (35.3%) was directed to Group of Eight university courses (Figure 22) followed by Technology universities (30.7%), non-aligned universities (17.9%) and Innovative Research Universities (16.0%). For non-Year 12 applicants 33.2% applied to non-aligned universities and Group of Eight universities (25.6%). The rest of the non-Year 12 applicants were almost evenly spread between Innovative Research and Technology universities.

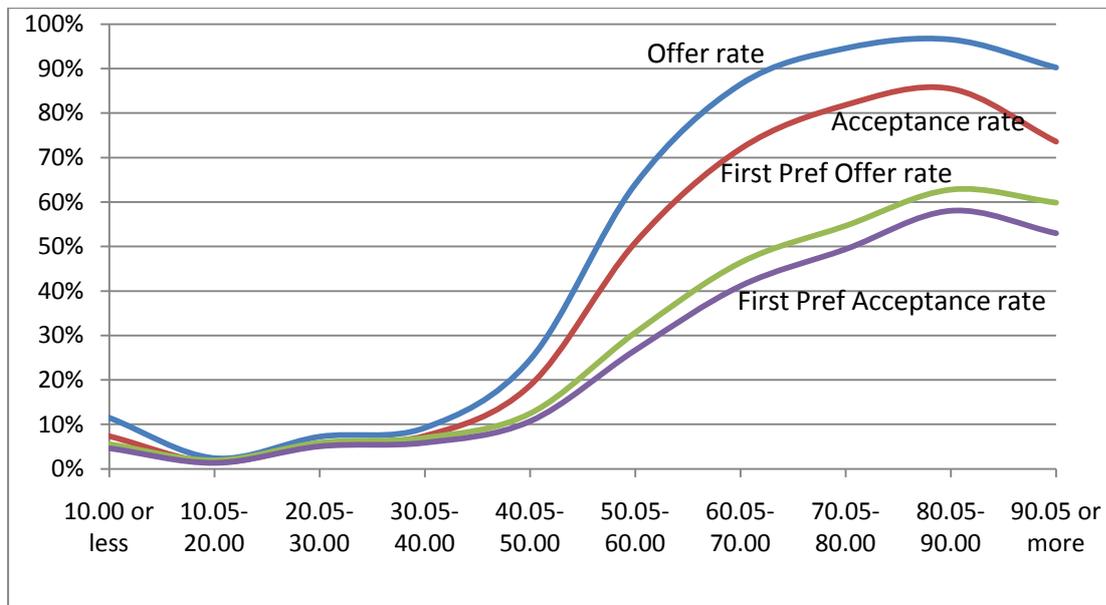
**Figure 22: Proportion of highest preferences by current Year 12 status and type of university, 2011**



## Offers and acceptances

The discussion of offers and acceptances amongst Year 12 applicants includes both home state and interstate applicants. Figure 23 shows the proportion of all current Year 12 applicants by ATAR decile receiving and accepting an offer. The overall offer rate for 2011 Year 12 students who applied was 82%, up slightly on 2010.

**Figure 23: Offer rate and acceptance rate for current Year 12 applicants by ATAR decile band, 2011**



Not surprisingly, the offer rate increases with ATAR score. It is interesting to note that the highest offer rate is recorded not in the top decile but in the 80.05-90.00 range, where the offer rate was 96.6%. Applicants with an ATAR above 90.00 had an offer rate of 90%. Offer rates in the third decile (70.05-80.00) were also higher than the top decile at 94.6%. The lower offer rate in the top decile is explained in part by the greater propensity of current Year 12 students in this decile to apply interstate for high demand courses with very demanding entry criteria (for example, Medical Studies courses).

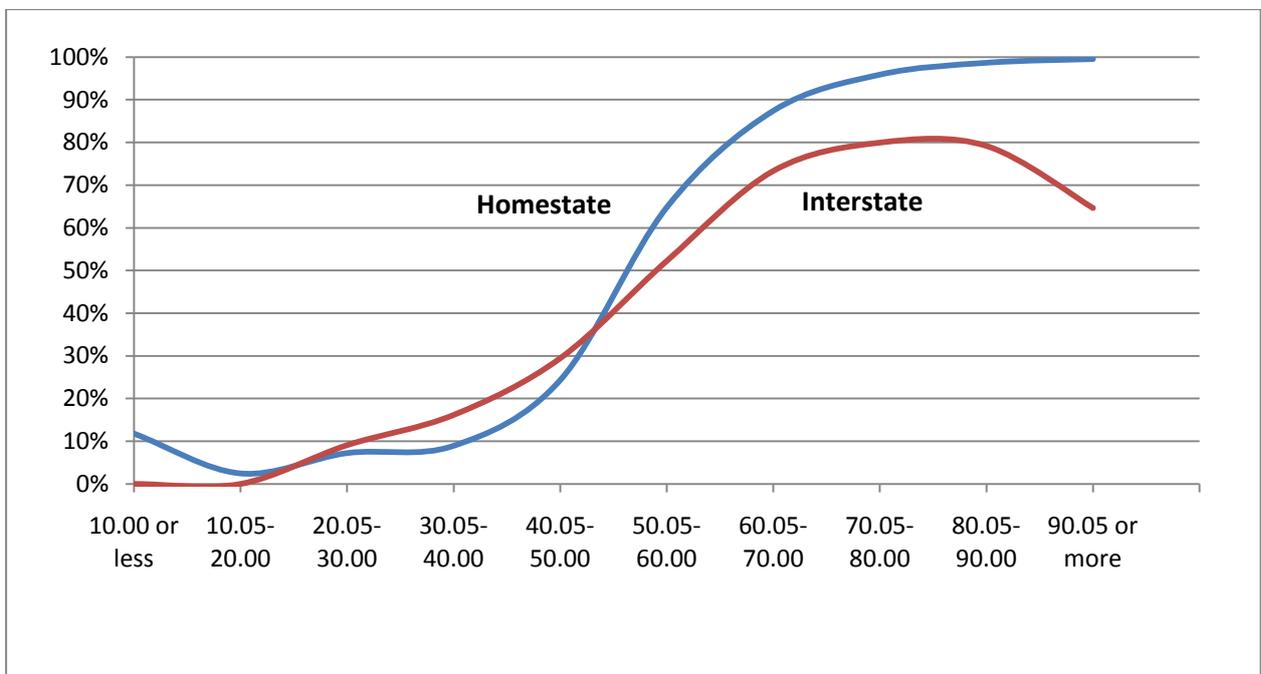
In the lower deciles, offer rates remained very healthy for the next decile down (60.05-70.00) at 86.5%. Offer rates dropped sharply thereafter, but even in the 50.05-60.00 decile, the majority of applicants (64.0%) received an offer. Offer rates were dramatically lower for current Year 12 applicants with an ATAR of 50 or less.

Cumulating applications and offers for the top three deciles shows that 93.0% of applicants with an ATAR of 80.05 or above received an offer. For applicants with an ATAR of 70.05 or above the offer rate was 93.5%. Of the applicants with an ATAR of 60.05 or above, 92.1% received an offer. Considering all applicants with an ATAR of 50.05 or above, 88.8% received an offer, whereas only 17.6% of applicants with an ATAR of 50.00 or below were successful in obtaining an offer.

Offer rates for highest preferences also varied with ATAR decile (Figure 23), but the increase was more gradual than is the case with overall offer rates. In comparison to overall offer rates, highest preference offer rates increased in a more linear fashion, dropping slightly in the highest decile. For applicants with an ATAR above 60.00, the proportion that received a lower preference offer fell as ATAR increased. In the 60.05-70.00 decile, just over 40% of applicants received an offer for a lower preference, falling to 30.4% in the highest decile.

Figure 24, below, compares home state and interstate offer rates for current Year 12 applicants. Interstate offer rates were generally lower than home state, and the gap widened as ATAR increased. While nearly all home state applicants with an ATAR in the highest two deciles received an offer, only 64.6% of interstate applicants in the top decile, and 79.2% in the second-top decile, were successful.

**Figure 24: Offer rate for current Year 12 applicants by home /interstate and ATAR decile band, 2011**



## 11. Direct Applicants

While most applications for university are processed by TACs, a significant proportion of prospective students applied directly to universities. Direct applicants tended to be older than TAC applicants. There were very few current Year 12 students among direct applicants.

National statistics on direct applications were collected for the first time in 2010. Aggregated data formerly collected by UA covered TACs only. In its first year (2009), the unit record collection of university applications and offers data included only data on applications processed by TACs. For 2010, the data specifications used for unit record data was extended to cover direct applications.

The direct admissions process is more straightforward than the TAC administrative process: the bulk of direct applicants apply for a single course, unlike the complicated preference system of the TAC process. Fairly extensive data are available on direct applicants' demographic characteristics and prior educational participation.

### *Applications*

In total 77 803 applications were made directly to universities over the course of the main admissions process for 2011 first semester admissions. This is inclusive of double counting of individuals who submitted more than one application to a single university as well as those who applied to several universities.

Different universities have different administration practices. Double counting of an applicant can occur within an institution as some universities allow several applications per applicant. Other universities allow applicants to specify several preferences on a single application form, somewhat like the system operated by TACs.

When one application record was selected per person, per university, there were 71 575 applicants (where an applicant applied to two or more universities, each application to a separate university has been counted). This method of counting direct applicants was broadly analogous to reporting of TAC data above, where applicants were counted only once in each state but may have been counted in more than one state.

These 71 575 direct applications were submitted by 68 880 individual persons (counting individuals regardless of institution). Further analysis shows that there were very few applicants who applied to multiple institutions (1943 people, with a total of 2695 duplicate applications across universities-which is 3.5% of all Direct Applications). Because preferences are used to only a very limited extent in direct admissions, the highest preference cannot easily be identified. Therefore, when analysing detailed direct applicants data, all the duplicates have been excluded.

### *Prior educational participation*

A very small minority (2402, or 3.5%) of direct applicants were current Year 12 students, with the vast majority (96.5%) being non-Year 12 applicants. Table 50 presents the number of direct applicants by state and territory.

**Table 50: Current Year 12 status, direct applicants by state and territory, 2011**

State	Current Year 12	Non-Year 12	Total
NSW/ACT	1,085	24,969	26,054
Vic.	430	13,626	14,056
Qld	25	11,279	11,304
WA	710	12,425	13,135
SA/NT	<10	2,519	2,529
Tas.	<10	303	308
Unknown	137	1,357	1,494
<b>Australia</b>	<b>2,402</b>	<b>66,478</b>	<b>68,880</b>

An ATAR was reported for 1053 of the current Year 12 direct applicants and 139 077 of the current Year 12 TAC applicants. An ATAR was missing for 1349 current Year 12 direct applicants (56.2% of applicants in this category) and 4830 current Year 12 TAC applicants (3.4% of applicants in this category).

As Table 51 shows, the distribution of direct applicants by decile band was quite different to the distribution of the much larger number of TAC applicants who were current Year 12 students. Both direct and TAC current Year 12 applicants were clearly skewed to the high end of the ATAR distribution. For TAC applicants, each decile was bigger than the next higher band, with the top decile accounting for more than one third (33.8%) of applicants. Similarly, for direct applicants, the largest category was ATAR of 90 and above accounting for 30.9%. The proportion of direct applicants with an ATAR of 50 or less was slightly smaller than for TAC applicants.

**Table 51: Current Year 12 applicants by ATAR deciles for current Year 12 applicants by, direct applicants and TAC applications, 2011**

ATAR	Direct applicants		TAC applications	
	Frequency	Proportion	Frequency	Proportion
50.00 or below	97	9.2%	13,506	9.7%
50.05-60.00	116	11.0%	12,375	8.9%
60.05-70.00	142	13.5%	17,071	12.3%
70.05-80.00	158	15.0%	20,512	14.7%
80.05-90.00	215	20.4%	28,580	20.5%
90.05 or more	325	30.9%	47,033	33.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,053</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>139,077</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Just over one quarter of direct applicants had some previous university education (25.1%) and 11.7% had previously participated in VET. Table 52 shows the number of direct applicants who had prior VET or university participation. It should be noted that these categories are not mutually exclusive.

**Table 52: Prior VET and university participation for direct applicants by state and territory, 2011**

State	Prior VET	Prior university
NSW/ACT	3,655	6,354
Vic.	1,553	2,636
Qld	1,575	4,129
WA	944	2,902
SA/NT	225	1,001
Tas.	41	104
Unknown	42	169
<b>Australia</b>	<b>8,035</b>	<b>17,295</b>

By highest prior participation, the most common level completed was secondary education (31.5%), followed by incomplete higher education (21.0%). A further 12.8% of direct applicants reported a completed bachelor degree as their highest prior participation. About 11% had complete or incomplete VET as their highest participation (Table 53).

**Table 53: Highest prior educational participation for direct applicants, 2011**

Highest prior educational qualification/participation	Frequency	Proportion
Complete postgraduate	1,840	2.7%
Complete bachelor	8,808	12.8%
Complete sub-degree	3,160	4.6%
Incomplete higher education	14,482	21.0%
Complete VET	6,560	9.5%
Incomplete VET	1,183	1.7%
Complete secondary education	21,669	31.5%
Other qualification - complete or incomplete	3,657	5.3%
No prior education attainment	6,907	10.0%
Not specified	614	0.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>68,880</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### *Demographics of direct applicants – Age and Gender*

Among direct applicants, 61.3% were female and 38.7% were male. Overall, the proportion of female applicants to male applicants is higher for direct applications than for TAC applicants (58.3% of TAC applicants were female in comparison). State and territory breakdowns are in Table 54.

**Table 54: Direct applicants by gender and state and territory, 2011**

State	Male Applicants	Female Applicants
NSW/ACT	9,758	16,296
Vic.	5,596	8,460
Qld	4,421	6,883
WA	5,039	8,096
SA/NT	1,086	1,443
Tas.	100	208
Unknown	654	840
<b>Australia</b>	<b>26,654</b>	<b>42,226</b>

Table 55 shows the proportion of direct applicants by age group. Above two thirds (67.8%) of applicants were aged 20 years and older. Of those in the 17-19 age group, most applicants were aged 19 (42.8%), closely followed by 18 year olds (39.8%).

**Table 55: Direct applicants by age group and state and territory, 2011**

State	16 and under	17-19	20-24	25 and over
NSW/ACT	<10	7,449	8,522	10,054
Vic.	<10	3,501	6,391	4,151
Qld	10	3,678	3,295	4,319
WA	19	6,056	3,629	3,427
SA/NT	<10	840	888	797
Tas.	<10	43	94	170
Unknown	<10	499	507	476
<b>Australia</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>22,066</b>	<b>23,326</b>	<b>23,394</b>

\* Does not include 36 direct applicants who did not have a specified age.

### *Demographics of direct applicants – Under-represented groups*

Table 56 shows the proportion of direct applicants from different SES backgrounds. The majority of applicants were from medium SES backgrounds (50.8%). Those with a low SES background were under-represented in the pool of applicants (17.7%). A similar distribution by SES is apparent for direct and TAC applications.

**Table 56: Direct applicants by SES status, 2011**

SES	Frequency	Per cent
Low SES	12,191	17.7%
Medium SES	34,980	50.8%
High SES	19,901	28.9%
Unknown	1,808	2.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>68,880</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Table 57 shows the proportion of direct applicants from different regions, with a significant majority from metropolitan areas.

Analysis by region indicates that a slightly higher proportion of metropolitan applicants applied through TACs (76.6%) compared with those applying directly to universities (71.5%).

**Table 57: Direct applicants by regionality, 2011**

Region	Frequency	Per cent
Metropolitan	49,282	71.5%
Regional	15,641	22.7%
Remote	879	1.3%
Unknown	3,078	4.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>68,880</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

There was a higher proportion of Indigenous applicants (2.9%) as shown in Table 58. among direct applicants, compared to TAC applicants (1.1%). Indigenous status is a self-reported item and is generally believed to be under-reported in TAC applications data. It is possible that Indigenous applicants are more likely to identify when applying directly, because they are applying through dedicated Indigenous admissions schemes. Table 58 shows a breakdown of the number and proportion of Indigenous applicants by state and territory. Analysis by state shows that the highest proportion of Indigenous applicants was in Queensland (4.9%). In absolute terms, New South Wales/Australian Capital Territory had the greatest number of Indigenous applicants (811) followed by Queensland (533) and Western Australia (304).

**Table 58: Indigenous direct applicants by state and territory of permanent home residence, 2011**

State	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Total	% Indigenous
NSW/ACT	25,243	811	26,054	3.2%
Vic.	13,922	134	14,056	1.0%
Qld	10,771	533	11,304	4.9%
WA	12,831	304	13,135	2.4%
SA/NT	2,453	76	2,529	3.1%
Tas.	296	12	308	4.1%
Unknown	1,418	76	1,494	5.4%
<b>Australia</b>	<b>66,934</b>	<b>1,946</b>	<b>68,880</b>	<b>2.9%</b>

### *Field of education preferences among direct applicants*

Table 59 presents the breakdown of preferences for all direct applicants. Comprehensive data were not available from universities with regard to course preference order for those people who applied to multiple courses at one university, therefore, the top preference could not be established for all applicants (as in TAC data). Among direct applicants, Society and Culture had the highest share of preferences (27.8%), followed by Health (17.0%), Management and Commerce (13.0%) and Education (12.6%).

There were some differences between direct and TAC applicants by field of education. Direct applicants were less likely to apply for Health fields or Engineering, but more likely to apply for Education and Society and Culture courses.

**Table 59: Preferences by field of education, all direct applicants, 2011**

Field of Education	Frequency	Per cent
Natural and Physical Sciences	6,239	9.1%
Information Technology	2,088	3.0%
Engineering and Related Technologies	2,798	4.1%
Architecture and Building	1,130	1.6%
Agriculture, Environmental and Related Studies	1,310	1.9%
Health	11,718	17.0%
<i>Medicine</i>	1,556	2.3%
<i>Nursing</i>	4,514	6.6%
<i>Dental Studies</i>	222	0.3%
<i>Veterinary Studies</i>	127	0.2%
<i>Health Other</i>	5,299	7.7%
Education	8,695	12.6%
<i>Teacher Education</i>	8,412	12.2%
Management and Commerce	8,935	13.0%
Society and Culture	19,135	27.8%
<i>Law</i>	2,168	3.1%
Creative Arts	5,208	7.6%
Not specified	1,624	2.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>68,880</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### *Direct applicants by type of university*

In 2011, about 57.5% of direct applicants applied to non-aligned universities (Table 60). The Group of Eight Universities and Innovative Research Universities had a similar proportion (around 14%) of direct applicants followed by Technology Universities (11.3%).

**Table 60: Direct applications by type of university, 2011**

Type of university	Frequency	Per cent
Innovative Research Universities Australia	9,737	14.1%
Group of Eight	10,146	14.7%
Technology	7,786	11.3%
Non-aligned	39,595	57.5%
Unknown	1,616	2.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>68,880</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### *Offers*

In total there were 68 880 direct applicants (that is, individual persons). Of these, 55 196 (Table 61) applicants received an offer, with a resulting offer rate of 80.1%. The offer rate for TAC applications was slightly lower (78.1%) than the offer rate to direct applicants.

Table 61 outlines the number of offers made by universities by field of education. Society and Culture had the highest share of offers (23.8%), followed by Health (16.6%), Management and Commerce (14.0%) and Education (12.8%).

**Table 61: Offers to direct applicants, by field of education, 2011**

Field of education	Frequency	Per cent
Natural and Physical Sciences	4,933	8.9%
Information Technology	1,798	3.3%
Engineering and Related Technologies	2,399	4.3%
Architecture and Building	969	1.8%
Agriculture, Environmental and Related Studies	1,146	2.1%
Health	9,181	16.6%
<i>Medicine</i>	1,275	2.3%
<i>Nursing</i>	3,556	6.4%
<i>Dental Studies</i>	125	0.2%
<i>Veterinary Studies</i>	100	0.2%
<i>Health Other</i>	4,125	7.5%
Education	7,046	12.8%
<i>Teacher Education</i>	6,795	12.3%
Management and Commerce	7,701	14.0%
Society and Culture	13,122	23.8%
<i>Law</i>	1,746	3.2%
Creative Arts	4,515	8.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>55,196</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

\*Total includes 7 unknown fields of education

Due to differences in administrative practices between institutions, it is difficult to compare offer rates by institution. The distribution of offers by type of university largely resembles the distribution of applicants across type of university. Table 62 shows that almost three fifths of the applicants received offers from non-aligned Universities (58.1%) followed by Innovative Research Universities (16.2%) and Group of Eight Universities (13.8%).

**Table 62: Offers to direct applicants by type of university, 2011**

Type of university	Frequency	Share (Per cent)
Innovative Research Universities Australia	8,922	16.2%
Group of Eight	7,627	13.8%
Technology	6,585	11.9%
Non-aligned	32,062	58.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>55,196</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### Acceptances

Among the 55 196 individual offers, 43 645 direct applicants accepted offers. Overall, the acceptance rate was 79.1%. Only 1873 offers made to direct applicants (3.4% of the total) were deferred.

## 12. Applications and Applicants

TAC data reports on the number of applications. Until 2008, an element of double counting has existed historically as there was previously no means of identifying those applicants who applied to multiple TACs when data was collected at an aggregate rather than unit record level.

In 2011, there were 271 117 TAC applications, including the double counting of applicants across states. When unique persons were identified, this number decreased to 247 624 applicants. Further investigation revealed that the difference of 38 174 applications were from 14 681 individual applicants who applied to multiple TACs (an applicant can apply to more than two states). These 38 174 multiple applications was equivalent to 14.1% of total TAC applications.

### *TAC and Direct Applicants - Combined*

In comparison with 247 624 TAC applicants, there were 68 880 applicants who applied directly to universities. The total number of applicants across Australia by May 2011, therefore, was 316 504 counting both direct and TAC applicants. Direct applicants accounted for 21.8% of this total. In 2010, direct applicants accounted for 19.2% of total applicants. Further analysis shows that there was an overlap of 14 032 applicants who applied through TACs as well as direct to universities meaning that the actual number of individuals that applied for a university place in 2011 was 302 472, an increase of 2.9% over 2010.

Table 63 shows a comparison between direct applicants and TAC applicants and their demographic characteristics. Overall, the proportion of female applicants in comparison with male applicants was higher for direct applicants (61.3%) than for TAC applicants (58.2%). As previously discussed, there was a much higher proportion of Indigenous applicants (2.8%) among direct applicants, compared with TAC applicants (1.2%). The age distribution also differed between the two application methods with TACs having a much larger proportion of applicants in the school leaver age cohort (17-19 years old; 65.1% of TAC applicants), while direct applications were more evenly spread across age groups. Similarly, current Year 12s represented a much smaller proportion of direct applicants than of TAC applicants.

A similar distribution by SES was apparent for direct and TAC applications. The total number of unique low SES applicants increased by 3.6% in 2011 in comparison with 2.9% for medium SES applicants and 1.8% for high SES applicants. Analysis by region indicated that a slightly higher proportion of metropolitan applicants applied through TACs (77.5%) rather than directly to universities (71.5%).

TAC applicants were split almost evenly between current Year 12 and other applicants, with current Year 12 applicants retaining a slight preponderance. Once direct applications data were added to the picture, current Year 12 applicants became a minority at 42.5%. Other applicants made up 57.5% of the total.

Differences in distribution by age group are less dramatic. Applicants aged 17 to 19 years made up 57.8% of the combined total. This age group is made up of nearly two thirds of TAC applicants and over 30% of direct applicants. Further, the sheer number of TAC applicants in this age group (183 850) ensured that 17 to 19 year olds remain the prime age cohort for university applications.

**Table 63: Direct applicants and TAC applicants by demographic characteristics, 2011**

Demographic characteristics		Direct applicants	TAC applicants	Combined total
<b>Total applicants*</b>				
	Number of applicants	68,880	247,624	302,472
	% of all applicants	22.8%	81.9%	
<b>Gender</b>				
	Female	61.3%	58.2%	58.7%
	Male	38.7%	41.8%	41.3%
<b>Indigenous status</b>				
	Indigenous	2.8%	1.2%	1.5%
	Non-indigenous	97.2%	98.8%	98.5%
<b>Age group**</b>				
	Early achievers: 16 and under	0.1%	0.3%	0.3%
	School leaver cohort: 17-19 years old	32.0%	65.1%	57.8%
	Non-traditional age: 20 to 24 years old	33.9%	18.4%	21.8%
	Mature aged: 25 years and older	34.0%	16.1%	20.1%
<b>Current Year 12</b>				
	Current Year 12	3.5%	51.7%	42.5%
	Non-Year 12	96.5%	48.3%	57.5%
<b>SES</b>				
	Low SES	17.7%	19.0%	18.9%
	Medium SES	50.8%	49.6%	49.7%
	High SES	28.9%	30.0%	29.9%
	Outside Australia/Missing	2.6%	1.4%	1.6%
<b>Region</b>				
	Metropolitan	71.5%	77.5%	76.7%
	Regional	22.7%	20.4%	21.0%
	Remote	1.3%	1.1%	1.1%
	Outside Australia/Missing	4.5%	1.1%	1.2%

\* The sum of TAC and direct applicants in the above table does not equal the combined total as there were 14 032 applicants who applied to both through TACs and directly to universities.

\*\* Does not include 36 direct applicants who did not have a specified age.

There were also some differences between direct and TAC applicants by field of education. Direct applicants were less likely to apply for Health or Engineering courses, but more likely to apply for Education and Society and Culture courses (Table 64). Fields of education recording strong increases in the total number of unique applicants in 2011 included medicine and engineering, up 7.5% and 7.0% respectively.

**Table 64: Direct applicants and TAC applicants by field of education, 2011**

Field of education	Direct applicants	TAC applicants
Natural and Physical Sciences	9.1%	7.6%
Information Technology	3.0%	2.7%
Engineering and Related Technologies	4.1%	6.6%
Architecture and Building	1.6%	3.7%
Agriculture, Environmental and Related Studies	1.9%	1.6%
Health	17.0%	21.8%
<i>Medical Studies</i>	2.3%	2.1%
<i>Nursing</i>	6.6%	8.5%
<i>Dental Studies</i>	0.3%	1.0%
<i>Veterinary Studies</i>	0.2%	0.6%
<i>Health Other</i>	7.7%	9.6%
Education	12.6%	9.4%
<i>Teacher Education</i>	12.2%	8.2%
Management and Commerce	13.0%	13.7%
Society and Culture	27.8%	21.3%
<i>Law</i>	3.1%	2.9%
Creative Arts	7.6%	10.8%
Other*	2.4%	0.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Note: Figures for TAC applicants are shares of first preference applications; figures for direct applicants are share of *all* preferences. Since preferences play only a minor part in direct admissions, this is an appropriate comparison.

There were some differences observed in the distribution of direct applicants and TAC applicants by type of university (Table 65). Almost three fifths of the direct applicants applied to non-aligned universities where as only one third of the TAC applicants applied for this type of university. Direct applicants are less likely to apply to Technology universities.

**Table 65: Direct applicants and TAC applicants by type of university, 2011**

Type of university	Direct applicants	TAC applicants
Innovative Research Universities Australia	14.1%	17.3%
Group of Eight	14.7%	28.8%
Technology	11.3%	20.9%
Non-aligned	57.5%	32.9%
Unknown	2.3%	n/a
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Direct applicants were more likely to be mature age applicants. Similarly, mature age applicants were more likely to apply to non-aligned universities and less likely to apply to other types of universities.

## 13. Factors Affecting Future Demand

Various factors influence demand for university places in Australia. Recent policy changes in the university education and schools areas are likely to lead to an increase in demand for university education. An increase in the size of the school leaving age cohort is also likely to increase demand. The following pages discuss some of the factors that influence current and future demand for university.

### *Higher education policy changes*

The Australian Government announced its response to the Bradley Review of Higher Education in March 2009. The government has adopted expansion targets and a range of measures to support increased participation, especially by students from under-represented groups. In particular, targets for increased higher education attainment and increased participation by under-represented groups, together with a demand driven funding system, are likely to have an impact on the demand for and supply of university places.

A demand driven system of funding, under which universities will be funded for as many places as they fill, is also likely to have a significant influence on the balance of demand and supply in university education. Progressively removing constraints on the number of places that universities can offer, and the courses in which they can offer them, is likely to lead to a closer alignment of supply and demand. In addition to balancing supply and demand at the aggregate level, a demand driven system is likely to address some of the current mismatches between demand and supply for particular fields of education and courses. This may help to address the need for skilled workers in key sectors of the labour market where skills shortages have existed in recent years. It is unlikely; however, that in some fields of education with very high demand (such as dentistry and medicine) the number of places offered will ever match the number of applicants.

Modest growth in applications in 2011 was followed by historically large growth in 2010, suggesting that demand for higher education is growing strongly. Modest growth in offers in 2011 followed on from large growth in offers in 2010, suggesting that universities are keen to expand provision to meet higher demand. Estimates of over enrolments for 2011, supplied to DEEWR by universities, showed that universities are taking advantage of the government's decision to raise the over enrolments cap from 5% to 10%, as part of a phased transition to a fully demand driven funding system.

### *School policy changes*

Through COAG, the Australian Government and state and territory governments have committed to increasing the Year 12 or equivalent attainment rate to 90% nationally by 2015 (measured by the 20-24 year old cohort).

The agreed measure for the Year 12 or equivalent attainment COAG target is the Survey of Education and Work (ABS Cat. No. 6227.0) (SEW). Table 66 below indicates that in 2007, the baseline year for the target, the attainment rate for young people aged 20-24 years who had gained a Year 12 or equivalent qualification was 83.5 per cent. The most recent data from the 2010 SEW indicates that the attainment rate was 85.6 per cent.

**Table 66: 20-24 year-olds attaining Year 12 or equivalent, or Certificate II or above: Observed values for 2001-2010 and target value for 2015, Australia.**

Observed <sup>1</sup>										Target <sup>2</sup>
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2015
79.1	80.0	80.4	81.3	81.2	81.9	83.5	84.2	84.5	85.6	90.0

1. Source: ABS Cat. No. 6227.0 *Education and Work, Australia, May 2010*, Tables 1.1-1.10

2. National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions

The National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions, agreed through COAG in 2009, seeks to improve young Australians' educational participation and attainment, their engagement, and their transition to post school education, training and employment.

The Compact with Young Australians is delivered under the National Partnership, and contains three elements to promote skills acquisition and ensure young people are learning or earning:

- **A National Youth Participation Requirement** which requires all young people to participate in schooling (or an approved equivalent) to Year 10, and then participate full-time (at least 25 hours per week) in education, training or employment, or a combination of these activities, until age 17.
- **Entitlement to an education or training place** for 15 to 24 year olds which focuses on attaining Year 12 or equivalent qualifications. Entitlement places are for government-subsidised qualifications, subject to admission requirements and course availability. For 20-24 year olds who already have a Year 12 or equivalent qualification, the entitlement is to a place that would result in them attaining a higher qualification than they currently hold.
- **Strengthened participation requirements for some types of income support** which make education and training a precondition for those under the age of 21 who seek income support through Youth Allowance (Other) and a similar requirement applying to young people whose parents seek the Family Tax Benefit Part A.

The National Partnership also set a target for an increase in participation rates for young people in Years 11 and 12 and 15-19 year olds without a Year 12 Certificate enrolled in a vocational education and training course at Certificate II or higher. Since 2008, participation in education and training has increased by around 5.6 per cent.

Taken together, the policy changes could be expected to increase Year 12 attainment rates, leading to a possible increase in demand for university in the coming years.

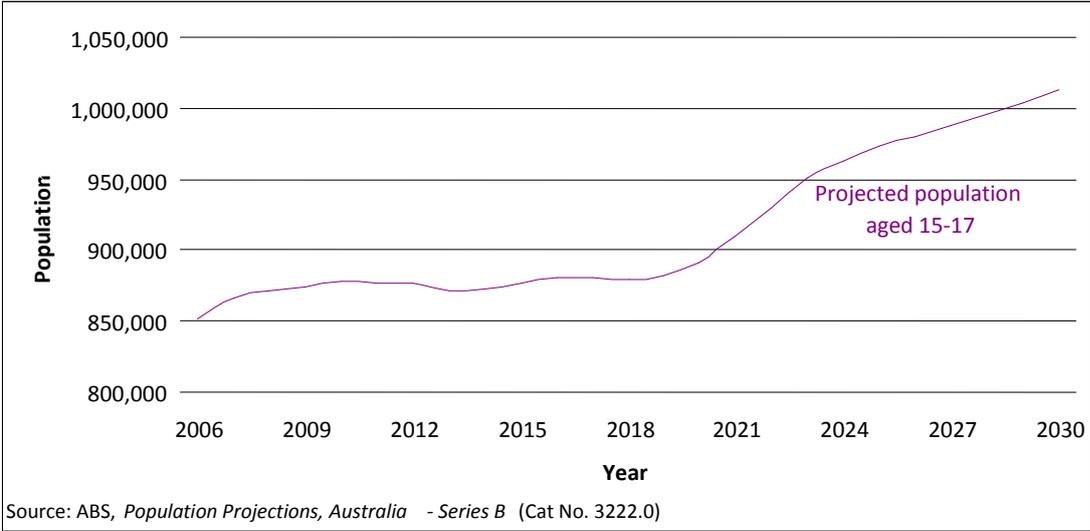
### *Demographic changes*

Demographic trends will affect the size of the main feeder group to universities, namely people of school leaving age. Any change in the size of this group is likely to impact on demand for university. Figure 26 shows that the size of the school leaver (15-17 year old) age cohort is predicted to increase marginally until about 2020. It will then increase fairly sharply to 2025. Further sharp growth is predicted beyond 2025.

This pattern is expected to differ by state and territory. South Australia, Tasmania, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory are all projected to experience a decline in the number of 15-17 year olds by 2018. Queensland and Western Australia, however, will show a continuing growth in the 15-17 year old population through to 2025.

The expected increase in the size of the 15-17 year old age cohort will increase the pool of potential applicants to university, whether Year 12 retention rates increase from present levels or not. The effect of growth in the 15-17 year old age cohort will be magnified if Year 12 retention rates increase in line with COAG targets, contributing to further significant expansion in the potential pool of university applicants.

**Figure 25: Projected population of school aged cohort (15-17 year olds), 2006-2030**



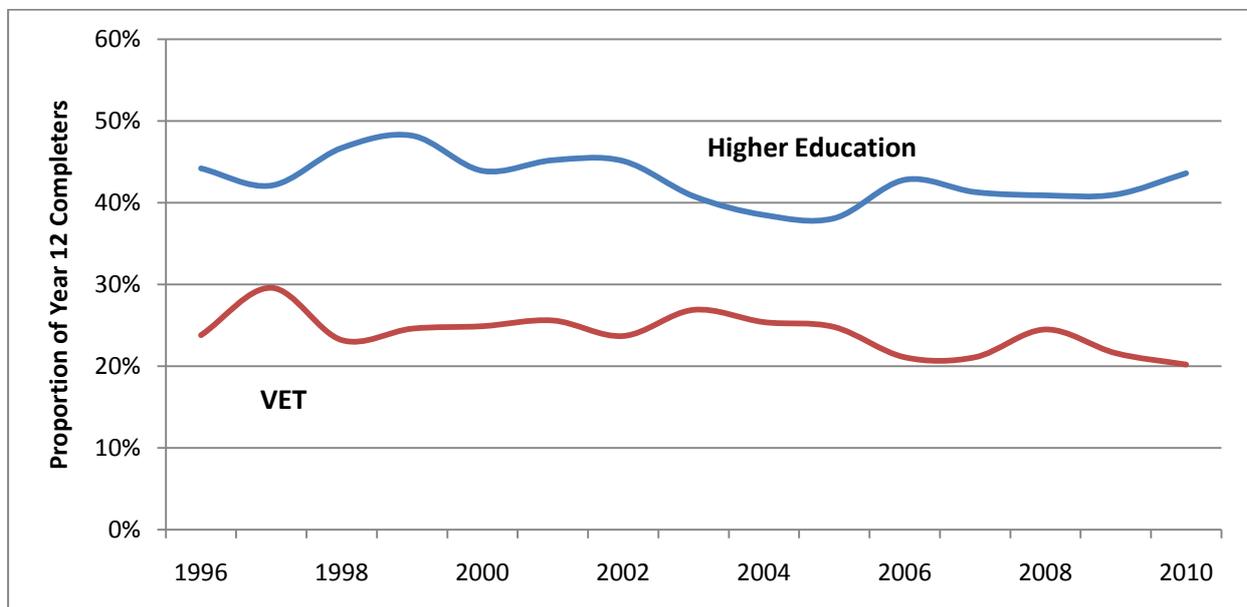
Source: ABS, Population Projections, Australia – Series B (Cat No. 3222.0)

### Post-school options – Transitions to VET

The number of Year 12 students who choose to go on to university will reflect the options available to young people after leaving school. One alternative pathway to university entry is undertaking VET.

Figure 26 suggests an inverse relationship between the numbers of Year 12 completers commencing university education and those commencing VET in the following year. Regardless of fluctuations from year to year, more Year 12 completers have chosen to enter university education than VET by a wide margin (nearly 20 percentage points) throughout the series. In the most recent year (2010), the proportion of school leavers going on to VET fell by 1.4 percentage points to 20.2%. On the other hand, the proportion going into university increased by 2.6 percentage points to 43.6%.

**Figure 26: Proportion of Year 12 completion cohort participating in higher education and VET in the following year, 1996-2010**



Source: ABS, Survey of Education and Work (customised data)

Arrangements between VET and university education sectors allow students to move across qualifications, based on articulation and credit transfer arrangements. An increasing number of arrangements have been established between registered VET providers and universities to assist with the move from an industry qualification to a university qualification, or to undertake combined awards. In 2010 around 6.8% of VET completers were enrolled in further study at university.<sup>12</sup> For students who had completed a module or modules of a VET course (but who had not completed an award course) the figure was 4.6%.

In 2011, 17.1% of applicants had undertaken prior VET study and 8.8% of offers were made on the basis of completion of a VET award course (other than a secondary education course undertaken at a VET institution). Both of these figures have increased slightly since 2010.

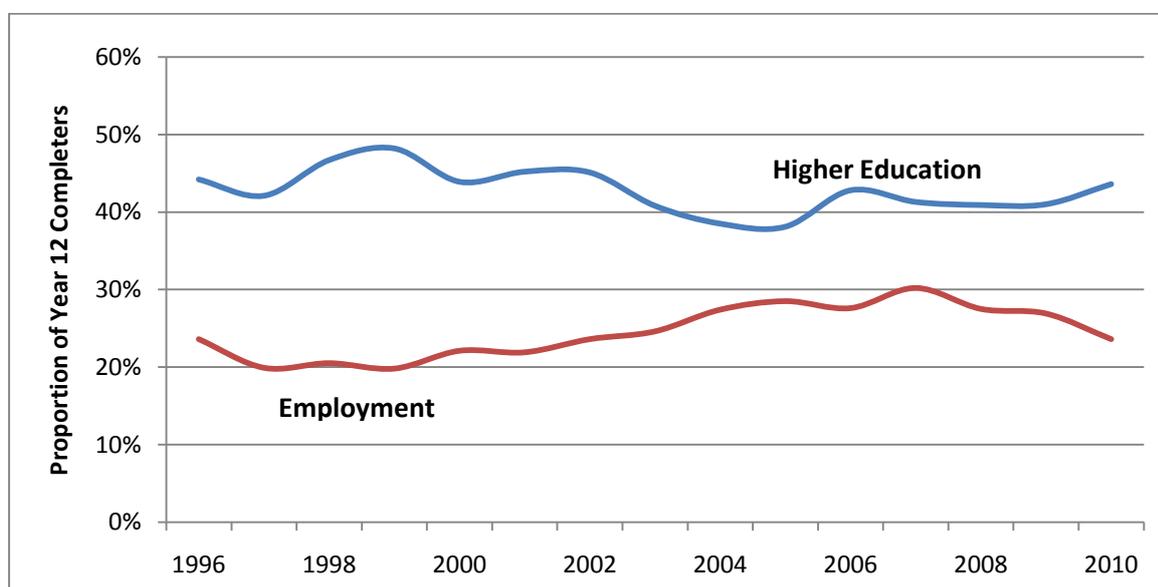
<sup>12</sup> NCVER (2010), *Australian vocational education and training statistics: Student Outcomes 2010*, NCVER

## Post-school options – Employment

Another post-school option for school leavers is entering the labour market. As with VET, there is an inverse relationship between demand for university and job opportunities, as shown in Figure 27.

Trend unemployment reached 5.3% in February-April 2010 but then marginally decreased to 5.2% at the beginning (Oct 2010) of the 2010-2011 university admissions process. When prospective applicants were making decisions about university study in 2011 the unemployment rate remained steady at 5.2%, until November 2010. The unemployment rate further dropped to 5.1% when the main round offers were made in January 2011. Unemployment rates continued to fall to 4.9% and strong labour market conditions appear to explain, in part, why the growth in applications in 2011 was more modest than in 2010.

**Figure 27: Proportion of Year 12 completion cohort in employment and higher education in the following year, 1996-2010**



Source: ABS, Survey of Education and Work (customised data)

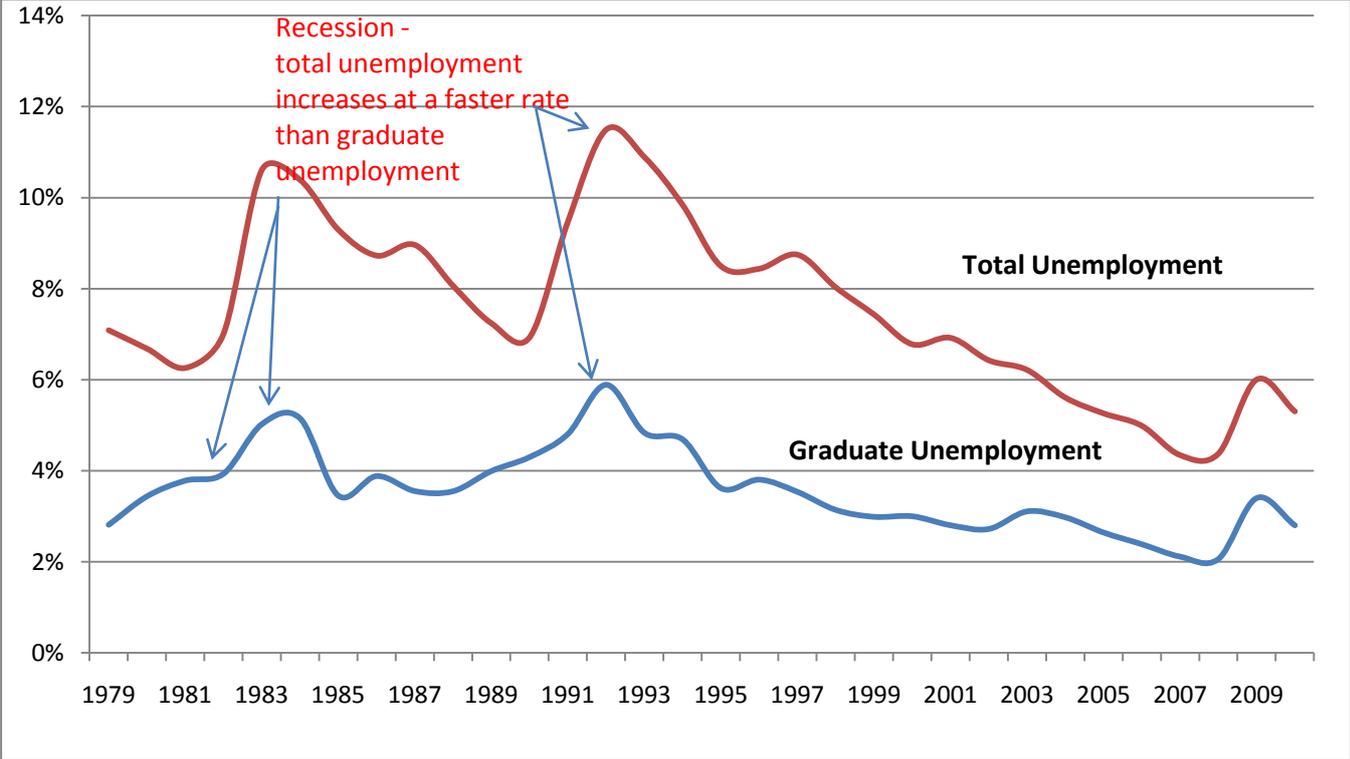
An inverse relationship between labour market conditions and demand for university places can be observed consistently over time. In the economic downturn of the early 1990s there was an appreciable decline in teenage full-time job opportunities while at the same time there was a considerable increase in the proportion of school leavers applying to university, which rose from 77% in 1990 to 91% in 1991. Estimates prepared by DEEWR suggest that the reduction in job opportunities during the 1990s economic downturn appear to have encouraged an additional 14 000 (or an 11% increase) school leaver applications to university.

This inverse relationship also holds for mature age applicants to university. Estimates prepared by DEEWR suggest that declining employment opportunities encouraged an increase of 14 000, or 12%, in mature age applications to university.

While much of the increase in demand in the early 1990s can be attributed to the downturn in the economic climate, structural changes in the university education system also made a significant contribution to the growth in demand. The Dawkins reforms of the late 1980s/early 1990s, along with the introduction of HECS, enabled more people to enrol in university.

Unemployment rates for graduates are markedly lower than overall unemployment rates. It is worth noting that this gap gets wider during times of high unemployment. For example, in the 1990s economic downturn overall unemployment increased by five percentage points to 11.5% but graduate unemployment only increased by two percentage points to 5.9% (Figure 28). Unemployment figures from the earlier recession in the 1980s tell a similar story. This suggests that a higher education qualification becomes more attractive during periods of slower economic growth.

**Figure 28: Unemployment rates, graduates and all persons, 1979-2010**



Source: ABS, Survey of Education and Work (Cat No. 6227.0), 2010

## Appendix 1 – Tables

This report is based on a new national unit record data collection. 2009 was the first year that unit record data on demand for higher education had been collected and analysed at a national level in Australia.

Comparisons within this report of 2011 and 2010 figures with previous aggregated data should be regarded as approximate and indicative only, even at high levels of aggregation. Readers who would like more information on the break in series and its implications for use and analysis of the data are invited to contact Higher Education Group within DEEWR.

Readers using the Appendix Tables below should take particular note in of the following:

- Change in the scope of the collection means that 2009, 2010 and 2011 figures are not precisely comparable with those of previous years, even at high levels of aggregation;
- Consequently, annual percentage change figures (prior to 2009) are indicative;
- Some revisions have been made to figures for all applicants and offers to all applicants in 2008, that is, figures published in *Undergraduate Applications, Offers and Acceptances 2008* have been slightly revised for a closer alignment with the scope and definitions of the new unit record collection;
- While total applicant and offers numbers for 2008 were revised, it was not possible to revise 2008 data at a lower level of aggregation, including figures for eligible applicants and offers to eligible applicants in 2008;
- For this reason, eligible applicant figures for 2008 are not entirely consistent with 2008 figures for all applicants;
- In particular, South Australia/Northern Territory figures for eligible applicants in 2008 were not entirely consistent with revised figures for all applicants in 2008. As a result eligible applicant numbers in South Australia/Northern Territory for 2009 could not be compared with figures for 2008;
- Time series data on eligible applicants by state and territory and field of education are not entirely consistent with aggregate data for all applicants/offers;
- Decrease in offers and offer rates in Queensland in 2009 were exaggerated by a change in the scope of the data in 2009. Offer totals in 2009 specifically excluded offers made in the January and February offer rounds for courses with an intake date outside Semester 1, 2009;
- Acceptances data since 2009 are not consistent with previous years for some states and territories or for Australia as a whole. It was not possible to calculate accurate estimates of changes in acceptances or acceptance rates – even at the highest levels of aggregation – due to changes in 2009, 2010 and 2011 in reporting of acceptances data;
- 2009 figures for all applicants and offers for South Australia/Northern Territory have been revised. Revised acceptance data are not available; and
- Tables do not always sum to totals due to missing data on some items.

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**Table A1.1: Applications, offers and unmet demand time series for Australia, 2002-2011**  
(Acceptances include Deferrals)

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>										
All applicants							236,432	249,743	266,996	271,117
Receiving offer							187,793	191,068	204,794	211,654
Offer rate							79.4%	76.5%	76.7%	78.1%
Accepting offer							136,551	161,206	171,083	173,071
Acceptance rate								84.4%	83.5%	81.8%
% change in number of applications								5.6%	6.9%	1.5%
% change in number receiving offer								1.7%	7.2%	3.3%
Number of eligible applicants	222,728	229,427	228,414	221,588	218,529	218,537	216,134	227,408	243,249	246,987
Eligible receiving offer	168,803	166,309	165,085	178,854	184,869	185,898	183,161	185,314	197,168	203,966
Unsuccessful eligible applicants	53,925	63,118	63,329	42,734	33,660	32,639	32,973	42,094	46,081	43,021
Offer rate	75.8%	72.5%	72.3%	80.7%	84.6%	85.1%	84.7%	81.5%	81.1%	82.6%
Eligible accepting offer	127,373	132,300	130,569	135,412	138,367	141,724	132,552	157,050	164,885	167,159
Acceptance rate	75.5%	79.6%	79.1%	75.7%	74.8%	76.2%	72.4%	84.7%	83.6%	82.0%
% of total applicants eligible							91.3%	91.1%	91.1%	91.1%
% change in number of eligible applicants on previous year	6.2%	3.0%	-0.4%	-3.0%	-1.4%	0.0%	-1.1%	5.2%	7.0%	1.5%
% change in eligible applicants receiving an offer on previous year	-0.3%	-1.5%	-0.7%	8.3%	3.4%	0.6%	-1.5%	1.2%	6.4%	3.4%
Estimated eligible applicants not receiving an offer after discounting	23,600	35,700	36,100	19,600	14,200	13,200	12,600	18,500	20,000	19,400
% of eligible applicants (unmet demand)	10.6%	15.6%	15.8%	8.8%	6.5%	6.0%	5.8%	8.1%	8.2%	7.8%
% difference in estimated unmet demand on previous year	2.9%	5.0%	0.2%	-7.0%	-2.3%	-0.5%	-0.2%	2.3%	0.1%	-3.0%

**Table A1.2: Applications, offers and unmet demand time series for NSW/ACT, 2002-2011**

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
<b>NEW SOUTH WALES AND AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY</b>										
All applicants							76,782	81,101	83,108	84,462
Receiving offer							62,565	64,402	67,232	69,152
Offer rate							81.5%	79.4%	80.9%	81.9%
Accepting offer							34,218	52,512	53,993	56,304
Acceptance rate							54.7%	81.5%	80.3%	81.4%
% change in number of applications								5.6%	2.5%	1.6%
% change in number receiving offer								2.9%	4.4%	2.9%
Eligible applicants	69,336	71,467	71,467	67,778	67,781	68,769	69,073	73,299	75,218	76,935
Eligible receiving offer	54,180	53,797	51,603	56,522	58,213	60,082	60,462	62,525	64,350	66,563
Unsuccessful eligible applicants	15,156	17,670	19,864	11,256	9,568	8,687	8,611	10,774	10,868	10,372
Offer rate	78.1%	75.3%	72.2%	83.4%	85.9%	87.4%	87.5%	85.3%	85.5%	86.5%
Eligible accepting offer	35,900	43,557	40,906	44,818	37,241	40,731	33,027	51,112	51,747	54,331
Acceptance rate	66.3%	81.0%	79.3%	79.3%	64.0%	67.8%	54.6%	81.7%	80.4%	81.6%
% of all applicants eligible							90.0%	90.4%	90.5%	91.1%
% change in number of eligible applicants on previous year	7.3%	3.1%	0.0%	-5.2%	0.0%	1.5%	0.4%	6.1%	2.6%	2.3%
% change in eligible applicants receiving an offer on previous year	-0.4%	-0.7%	-4.1%	9.5%	3.0%	3.2%	0.6%	3.4%	2.9%	3.4%
Unmet demand	6,600	10,000	11,400	5,700	3,700	3,400	2,500	4,200	4,400	4,200
% of eligible applicants (unmet demand)	9.5%	14.0%	16.0%	8.4%	5.5%	4.9%	3.6%	5.7%	5.9%	5.5%
% difference in estimated unmet demand on previous year	4.4%	4.5%	2.0%	-7.6%	-2.9%	-0.6%	-1.3%	2.1%	0.2%	-4.5%

**Table A1.3: Applications, offers and unmet demand time series for Vic., 2002-2011**

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
<b>VICTORIA</b>										
All applicants							62,381	67,457	71,984	74,521
Receiving offer							43,512	46,428	51,258	54,715
Offer rate							69.8%	68.8%	71.2%	73.4%
Accepting offer							36,416	37,810	41,120	42,037
Acceptance rate							83.7%	81.4%	80.2%	76.8%
% change in number of applications								8.1%	6.7%	3.5%
% change in number receiving offer								6.7%	10.4%	6.7%
Eligible applicants	59,785	61,649	60,312	58,907	51,778	54,957	52,476	59,358	62,825	64,292
Eligible receiving offer	38,153	38,118	37,961	41,457	41,310	43,140	41,804	45,307	49,394	52,473
Unsuccessful eligible applicants	21,632	23,531	22,351	17,450	10,468	11,817	10,672	14,051	13,431	11,819
Offer rate	63.8%	61.8%	62.9%	70.4%	79.8%	78.5%	79.7%	76.3%	78.6%	81.6%
Eligible accepting offer	27,509	27,397	27,320	24,619	31,825	34,742	34,708	36,969	39,667	40,349
Acceptance rate	72.1%	71.9%	72.0%	59.4%	77.0%	80.5%	83.0%	81.6%	80.3%	76.9%
% of all applicants eligible								88.0%	87.3%	86.3%
% change in number of eligible applicants on previous year	8.6%	3.1%	-2.2%	-2.3%	-12.1%	6.1%	-4.5%	13.1%	5.8%	2.3%
% change in eligible applicants receiving an offer on previous year	-3.6%	-0.1%	-0.4%	9.2%	-0.4%	4.4%	-3.1%	8.4%	9.0%	6.2%
Estimated eligible applicants not receiving an offer after discounting	10,100	12,400	12,000	6,500	4,300	5,100	4,500	6,400	6,000	5,800
% of eligible applicants (unmet demand)	16.9%	20.1%	19.9%	11.0%	8.3%	9.3%	8.6%	10.8%	9.5%	9.0%
% difference in estimated unmet demand on previous year	4.2%	3.2%	-0.2%	-8.9%	-2.7%	1.0%	-0.7%	2.2%	-1.3%	-3.3%

**Table A1.4: Applications, offers and unmet demand time series for Qld, 2002-2011**

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
<b>QUEENSLAND</b>										
All applicants							48,228	50,055	57,205	56,077
Receiving offer							41,241	39,333	42,738	43,392
Offer rate							85.5%	78.6%	74.7%	77.4%
Accepting offer							36,631	35,673	38,795	38,565
Acceptance rate							88.8%	90.7%	90.8%	88.9%
% change in number of applications								3.8%	14.3%	-2.0%
% change in number receiving offer								-4.6%	8.7%	1.5%
Eligible applicants	54,645	55,350	54,155	49,759	52,039	46,880	46,822	48,696	54,199	53,299
Eligible receiving offer	42,689	40,588	40,993	42,775	44,947	41,561	40,927	39,008	41,486	41,926
Unsuccessful eligible applicants	11,956	14,762	13,162	6,984	7,092	5,319	5,895	9,688	12,713	11,373
Offer rate	78.1%	73.3%	75.7%	86.0%	86.4%	88.7%	87.4%	80.1%	76.5%	78.7%
Eligible accepting offer	34,950	32,898	33,271	37,242	39,555	36,448	36,371	35,393	37,645	37,389
Acceptance rate	81.9%	81.1%	81.2%	87.1%	88.0%	87.7%	88.9%	90.7%	90.7%	89.2%
% of all applicants eligible							97.1%	97.3%	94.7%	95.0%
% change in number of eligible applicants on previous year	3.3%	1.3%	-2.2%	-8.1%	4.6%	-9.9%	-0.1%	4.0%	11.3%	-1.7%
% change in eligible applicants receiving an offer on previous year	-0.4%	-4.9%	1.0%	4.3%	5.1%	-7.5%	-1.5%	-4.7%	6.8%	1.1%
Unmet demand	5,600	9,400	8,400	4,200	4,000	2,700	3,200	4,700	6,000	6,100
% of eligible applicants (unmet demand)	10.2%	17.0%	15.5%	8.4%	7.7%	5.8%	6.8%	9.7%	11.1%	11.4%
% difference in estimated unmet demand on previous year	1.1%	6.8%	-1.5%	-7.1%	-0.7%	-1.9%	1.0%	2.9%	1.4%	1.7%

**Table A1.5: Applications, offers and unmet demand time series for WA, 2002-2011**

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
<b>WESTERN AUSTRALIA</b>										
All applicants							17,863	18,650	20,834	20,558
Receiving offer							15,142	15,322	17,045	16,812
Offer rate							84.8%	82.2%	81.8%	81.8%
Accepting offer							10,644	13,449	15,079	14,514
Acceptance rate							70.3%	87.8%	88.5%	86.3%
% change in number of applications								4.4%	11.7%	-1.3%
% change in number receiving offer								1.2%	11.2%	-1.4%
Eligible applicants	17,139	18,746	20,232	19,706	18,172	17,658	17,208	17,403	19,177	19,153
Eligible receiving offer	14,703	15,380	16,093	16,534	15,823	15,639	15,142	14,938	16,523	16,413
Unsuccessful eligible applicants	2,436	3,366	4,139	3,172	2,349	2,019	2,066	2,465	2,645	2,740
Offer rate	85.8%	82.0%	79.5%	83.9%	87.1%	88.6%	88.0%	85.8%	86.2%	85.7%
Eligible accepting offer	11,699	11,800	12,505	12,634	11,694	11,180	10,644	13,122	14,646	14,224
Acceptance rate	79.6%	76.7%	77.7%	76.4%	73.9%	71.5%	70.3%	87.8%	88.6%	86.7%
% of all applicants eligible							96.3%	93.3%	92.0%	93.2%
% change in number of eligible applicants on previous year	5.2%	9.4%	7.9%	-2.6%	-7.8%	-2.8%	-2.5%	1.1%	10.2%	-0.13%
% change in eligible applicants receiving an offer on previous year	4.7%	4.6%	4.6%	2.7%	-4.3%	-1.2%	-3.2%	-1.3%	10.6%	-0.67%
Unmet demand	800	2,400	2,900	1,600	900	700	700	1,000	1,100	1,000
% of eligible applicants (unmet demand)	4.7%	12.8%	14.3%	8.1%	5.0%	4.0%	4.1%	5.7%	5.7%	5.1%
% difference in estimated unmet demand on previous year	0.4%	8.1%	1.5%	-6.2%	-3.1%	-1.0%	0.1%	1.6%	0.0%	-9.1%

**Table A1.6: Applications, offers and unmet demand time series for SA/NT, 2002-2011**

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
<b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND NORTHERN TERRITORY</b>										
All applicants							22,628	23,279	24,235	24,940
Receiving offer							19,003	18,527	19,323	19,654
Offer rate							84.0%	79.6%	79.7%	78.8%
Accepting offer								16,260	16,967	15,654
Acceptance rate								87.8%	87.8%	79.6%
% change in number of applications								2.9%	4.1%	2.9%
% change in number receiving offer								-2.5%	4.2%	1.7%
Eligible applicants	15,359	15,577	15,442	19,704	22,810	23,165	22,915	19,978	22,800	23,275
Eligible receiving offer	13,429	12,759	12,577	16,479	19,222	19,551	19,238	16,935	18,694	19,038
Unsuccessful eligible applicants	1,930	2,818	2,865	3,225	3,588	3,614	3,677	3,043	41,06	4,237
Offer rate	87.4%	81.9%	81.4%	83.6%	84.3%	84.4%	84.0%	84.8%	82.0%	81.8%
Eligible accepting offer	13,080	12,352	12,148	11,992	13,968	14,058	13,715	15,346	16,382	15,121
Acceptance rate	97.4%	96.8%	96.6%	72.8%	72.7%	71.9%	71.3%	90.6%	87.6%	79.4%
% of all applicants eligible							92.8%	85.8%	94.1%	93.3%
% change in number of eligible applicants on previous year	3.0%	1.4%	-0.9%	27.6%	15.8%	1.6%	-1.1%	-12.8%	14.1%	2.08%
% change in eligible applicants receiving an offer on previous year	1.3%	-5.0%	-1.4%	31.0%	16.6%	1.7%	-1.6%	-12.0%	10.4%	1.8%
Estimated eligible applicants not receiving an offer after discounting	500	1,200	1,100	1,400	1,100	1,000	1,000	1,500	1,700	1,500
% of eligible applicants (unmet demand)	3.3%	7.7%	7.1%	7.1%	4.8%	4.3%	4.4%	7.5%	7.5%	6.6%
% difference in estimated unmet demand on previous year	0.6%	4.4%	-0.6%	0.0%	-2.3%	-0.5%	0.1%	3.1%	0.0%	-11.8%

**Table A1.7: Applications, offers and unmet demand time series for Tas., 2002-2011**

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
<b>TASMANIA</b>										
All applicants							8,550	9,201	9,630	10,559
Receiving offer							6,330	7,056	7,198	7,929
Offer rate							74.0%	76.7%	74.8%	75.1%
Accepting offer							4,621	55,02	5,129	5,997
Acceptance rate							73.0%	78.0%	71.3%	75.6%
% change in number of applications								7.6%	4.6%	9.6%
% change in number receiving offer								11.5%	2.0%	10.2%
Eligible applicants	6,464	6,638	6,806	5,734	5,949	7,108	7,640	8,674	9,030	10,033
Eligible receiving offer	5,649	5,667	5,858	5,087	5,354	5,925	5,588	6,601	6,721	7,553
Unsuccessful eligible applicants	815	971	948	647	595	1,183	2,052	2,073	2,309	2,480
Offer rate	87.4%	85.4%	86.1%	88.7%	90.0%	83.4%	73.1%	76.1%	74.4%	75.3%
Eligible accepting offer	4,235	4,296	4,419	4,107	4,084	4,565	4,087	5,108	4,798	5,745
Acceptance rate	75.0%	75.8%	75.4%	80.7%	76.3%	77.0%	73.1%	77.4%	71.4%	76.1%
% of all applicants eligible							89.4%	94.3%	93.8%	95.0%
% change in number of eligible applicants on previous year	8.4%	2.7%	2.5%	-15.8%	3.7%	19.5%	7.5%	13.5%	4.1%	11.1%
% change in eligible applicants receiving an offer on previous year	10.0%	0.3%	3.4%	-13.2%	5.2%	10.7%	-5.7%	18.1%	1.8%	12.4%
Unmet demand	42	300	300	200	200	300	700	700	800	800
% of eligible applicants (unmet demand)	0.6%	4.5%	4.4%	3.5%	3.4%	4.2%	9.2%	8.1%	8.9%	7.5%
% difference in estimated unmet demand on previous year	-0.1%	3.9%	-0.1%	-0.9%	-0.1%	0.8%	5.0%	-1.1%	0.8%	0.0%

**Table A2.1: Step-by-step calculation of unmet demand for Australia and by state and territory, 2011**

	State						Australia
	NSW/ACT	VIC	QLD	WA	SA/NT	TAS	
Unsuccessful eligible Applicants	10,372	11,819	11,373	2,740	4,237	2,480	43,021
<b>Step one</b>							
Unsuccessful eligible applicants (home state) with one preference	2,646	1,969	1,818	586	882	375	8,276
Unsuccessful eligible applicants (home state) with two preferences	1,281	1,478	1,259	325	452	170	4,965
Unsuccessful eligible school leaver applicants (interstate) aged 20 and under	1,293	873	1,433	702	976	942	6,219
Number discounted from step 1	5,220	4,320	4,510	1,613	2,310	1,487	19,460
<b>Step two</b>							
Estimate of unsuccessful eligible applicants remaining after step 1	5,152	7,499	6,863	1,127	1,927	993	23,561
Rejection rate	18.4%	23.1%	10.8%	13.3%	20.6%	23.9%	18.0%
Number discounted from step 2	947	1,733	743	150	396	238	4,207
<b>Step three</b>							
Unsuccessful eligible applicants after discounting	4,205	5,766	6,120	977	1,531	755	19,354
% of total eligible applicants (unmet demand)	5.5%	9.0%	11.5%	5.1%	6.6%	7.5%	7.8%

**Table A3.1: Applications and offers by gender, age, educational participation and home state for Australia, 2011**

	Gender		Age				Current Year 12	Educational participation			Home state	
	Male	Female	Early achievers (16 and under)	School leaver (17-19)	Non-traditional (20 - 24)	Mature age (25 and over)		Non-Year 12	Any prior VET	Any prior university	Home state	Interstate/overseas
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>												
Number of applications	113,050	158,067	1,017	180,262	48,431	41,407	143,907	127,210	46,358	64,999	233,901	37,216
Receiving offer	87,199	124,455	896	144,091	35,422	31,245	115,770	95,884	35,599	50,526	187,550	24,104
Offer rate	77.1%	78.7%	88.1%	79.9%	73.1%	75.5%	80.4%	75.4%	76.8%	77.7%	80.2%	64.8%
Accepting offer	63,310	87,698	652	102,773	25,267	22,316	81,217	69,791	26,156	35,482	141,071	9,937
Acceptance rate	72.6%	70.5%	72.8%	71.3%	71.3%	71.4%	70.2%	72.8%	73.5%	70.2%	75.2%	41.2%

**Table A3.2: Applications and offers by gender, age, educational participation and home state, NSW/ACT and Vic., 2011**

	Gender		Age				Current Year 12	Educational participation			Home state	
	Male	Female	Early achievers (16 and under)	School leaver (17-19)	Non-traditional (20 - 24)	Mature age (25 and over)		Non-Year 12	Any prior VET	Any prior university	Home state	Interstate/overseas
<b>NEW SOUTH WALES AND AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY</b>												
Number of applications	36,481	47,981	136	58,750	14,984	10,592	46,890	37,572	12,600	19,193	76,724	7,738
Receiving offer	29,436	39,716	112	49,502	11,377	8,161	39,828	29,324	10,376	14,630	63,975	5,177
Offer rate	80.7%	82.8%	82.4%	84.3%	75.9%	77.0%	84.9%	78.0%	82.3%	76.2%	83.4%	66.9%
Accepting offer	21,896	28,738	71	36,536	8,337	5,690	28,898	21,736	7,876	10,080	48,375	2,259
Acceptance rate	74.4%	72.4%	63.4%	73.8%	73.3%	69.7%	72.6%	74.1%	75.9%	68.9%	75.6%	43.6%
<b>VICTORIA</b>												
Number of applications	31,262	43,259	127	50,716	14,481	9,197	43,138	31,383	13,884	15,547	65,821	8,700
Receiving offer	22,718	31,997	104	37,825	10,526	6,260	32,028	22,687	9,805	12,859	48,236	6,479
Offer rate	72.7%	74.0%	81.9%	74.6%	72.7%	68.1%	74.2%	72.3%	70.6%	82.7%	73.3%	74.5%
Accepting offer	15,404	20,812	49	25,904	6,573	3,690	22,210	14,006	6,291	7,709	34,251	1,965
Acceptance rate	67.8%	65.0%	47.1%	68.5%	62.4%	58.9%	69.3%	61.7%	64.2%	60.0%	71.0%	30.3%

**Table A3.3: Applications and offers by gender, age, educational participation and home state, for Qld and WA, 2011**

	Gender		Age				Current Year 12	Educational participation			Home state	
	Male	Female	Early achievers (16 and under)	School leaver (17-19)	Non-traditional (20 - 24)	Mature age (25 and over)		Non-Year 12	Any prior VET	Any prior university	Home state	Interstate/overseas
<b>QUEENSLAND</b>												
Number of applications	22,599	33,478	283	35,370	9,841	10,583	26,660	29,417	9,751	17,526	46,773	9,304
Receiving offer	17,131	26,261	249	28,045	6,869	8,229	21,670	21,722	7,505	13,600	37,294	6,098
Offer rate	75.8%	78.4%	88.0%	79.3%	69.8%	77.8%	81.3%	73.8%	77.0%	77.6%	79.7%	65.5%
Accepting offer	13,521	20,078	179	21,118	5,536	6,766	15,882	17,717	6,150	11,039	30,441	3,158
Acceptance rate	78.9%	76.5%	71.9%	75.3%	80.6%	82.2%	73.3%	81.6%	81.9%	81.2%	81.6%	51.8%
<b>WESTERN AUSTRALIA</b>												
Number of applications	8,763	11,795	108	15,343	2,637	2,470	12,369	8,189	3,390	3,916	17,931	2,627
Receiving offer	7,115	9,697	97	12,768	1,966	1,981	10,452	6,360	2,679	2,950	15,531	1,281
Offer rate	81.2%	82.2%	89.8%	83.2%	74.6%	80.2%	84.5%	77.7%	79.0%	75.3%	86.6%	48.8%
Accepting offer	5,290	7,022	64	9,174	1,513	1,561	7,216	5,096	2,149	2,239	11,817	495
Acceptance rate	74.3%	72.4%	66.0%	71.9%	77.0%	78.8%	69.0%	80.1%	80.2%	75.9%	76.1%	38.6%

**Table A3.4: Applications and offers by gender, age, educational participation and home state for SA/NT and Tas., 2011**

	Gender		Age				Current Year 12	Educational participation			Home state	
	Male	Female	Early achievers (16 and under)	School leaver (17-19)	Non-traditional (20-24)	Mature age (25 and over)		Non-Year 12	Any prior VET	Any prior university	Home state	Interstate/overseas
<b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND NORTHERN TERRITORY</b>												
Number of applications	9,693	15,247	90	15,049	4,368	5,433	11,416	13,524	4,297	5,396	19,857	5,083
Receiving offer	7,560	12,094	78	12,204	3,108	4,264	9,294	10,360	3,452	3,987	16,444	3,210
Offer rate	78.0%	79.3%	86.7%	81.1%	71.2%	78.5%	81.4%	76.6%	80.3%	73.9%	82.8%	63.2%
Accepting offer	4,918	7,673	48	7,766	2,074	2,703	5,653	6,938	2,262	2,417	11,481	1,110
Acceptance rate	65.1%	63.4%	61.5%	63.6%	66.7%	63.4%	60.8%	67.0%	65.5%	60.6%	69.8%	34.6%
<b>TASMANIA</b>												
Number of applications	4,252	6,307	273	5,034	2,120	3,132	3,434	7,125	2,436	3,421	6,795	3,764
Receiving offer	3,239	4,690	256	3,747	1,576	2,350	2,498	5,431	1,782	2,500	6,070	1,859
Offer rate	76.2%	74.4%	93.8%	74.4%	74.3%	75.0%	72.7%	76.2%	73.2%	73.1%	89.3%	49.4%
Accepting offer	2,281	3,375	241	2,275	1,234	1,906	1,358	4,298	1,428	1,998	4,706	950
Acceptance rate	70.4%	72.0%	94.1%	60.7%	78.3%	81.1%	54.4%	79.1%	80.1%	79.9%	77.5%	51.1%

**Table A4.1: Applications, acceptances and offers by under-represented group for Australia and NSW/ACT, 2011**

	SES				Geographic location				Indigenous status	
	Low SES	Medium SES	High SES	Outside Australia	Metro	Regional	Remote	Outside Australia	Identified	Did not identify
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>										
Number of applications	50,446	132,734	82,898	5,039	207,589	56,511	3,033	3,985	2,995	268,122
Receiving offer	38,446	103,525	66,505	3,178	160,725	46,114	2,487	2,328	2,211	209,443
Offer rate	76.2%	78.0%	80.2%	63.1%	77.4%	81.6%	82.0%	58.4%	73.8%	78.1%
Accepting offer	32,014	85,570	53,520	1,967	132,479	37,186	2,031	1,375	1,819	171,252
Acceptance rate	83.3%	82.7%	80.5%	61.9%	82.4%	80.6%	81.7%	59.1%	82.3%	81.8%
<b>NEW SOUTH WALES AND AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY</b>										
Number of applications	14,668	37,863	30,563	1,368	69,312	13,511	368	1,272	971	83,491
Receiving offer	11,793	30,790	25,710	859	56,424	11,644	300	784	710	68,442
Offer rate	80.4%	81.3%	84.1%	62.8%	81.4%	86.2%	81.5%	61.6%	73.1%	82.0%
Accepting offer	9,731	25,042	20,968	563	46,532	9,039	209	524	587	55,717
Acceptance rate	82.5%	81.3%	81.6%	65.5%	82.5%	77.6%	69.6%	66.8%	82.7%	81.4%

**Table A4.2: Applications, acceptances and offers by under-represented group for Vic., Qld and WA, 2011**

	SES				Geographic location				Indigenous status	
	Low SES	Medium SES	High SES	Outside Australia	Metro	Regional	Remote	Outside Australia	Identified	Did not identify
	<b>VICTORIA</b>									
Number of applications	12,310	36,127	24,650	1,434	57,447	15,874	218	982	455	74,066
Receiving offer	8,170	26,073	19,477	995	41,899	12,015	159	642	283	54,432
Offer rate	66.4%	72.2%	79.0%	69.4%	72.9%	75.7%	73.1%	65.4%	62.2%	73.5%
Accepting offer	6,364	20,249	14,884	540	32,454	9,192	89	302	206	41,831
Acceptance rate	77.9%	77.7%	76.4%	54.3%	77.5%	76.5%	56.0%	47.0%	72.8%	76.9%
<b>QUEENSLAND</b>										
Number of applications	11,753	31,191	12,209	924	40,676	13,613	940	847	841	55,236
Receiving offer	9,208	24,474	9,161	549	31,008	11,099	800	485	665	42,727
Offer rate	78.3%	78.5%	75.0%	59.4%	76.2%	81.5%	85.1%	57.3%	79.1%	77.4%
Accepting offer	8,270	21,903	8,002	390	27,793	9,728	707	337	587	37,978
Acceptance rate	89.8%	89.5%	87.3%	71.0%	89.6%	87.7%	88.4%	69.5%	88.3%	88.9%
<b>WESTERN AUSTRALIA</b>										
Number of applications	2,523	10,516	7,007	512	15,916	3,734	547	361	148	20,410
Receiving offer	2,000	8,639	5,844	329	13,017	3,157	444	194	107	16,705
Offer rate	79.3%	82.2%	83.4%	64.3%	81.8%	84.5%	81.2%	53.7%	72.3%	81.8%
Accepting offer	1,723	7,606	4,956	229	11,252	2,754	389	119	94	14,420
Acceptance rate	86.2%	88.0%	84.8%	69.6%	86.4%	87.2%	87.6%	61.3%	87.9%	86.3%

**Table A4.3: Applications, acceptances and offers by under-represented group for SA/NT and Tas., 2011**

	SES				Geographic location				Indigenous status	
	Low SES	Medium SES	High SES	Outside Australia	Metro	Regional	Remote	Outside Australia	Identified	Did not identify
<b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND NORTHERN TERRITORY</b>										
Number of applications	6,064	12,387	5,956	533	17,889	5,863	858	330	398	24,542
Receiving offer	4,668	9,982	4,673	331	13,963	4,824	700	167	302	19,352
Offer rate	77.0%	80.6%	78.5%	62.1%	78.1%	82.3%	81.6%	50.6%	75.9%	78.9%
Accepting offer	3,840	8,071	3,565	178	11,182	3,825	578	69	235	15,419
Acceptance rate	82.3%	80.9%	76.3%	53.8%	80.1%	79.3%	82.5%	41.3%	77.8%	79.7%
<b>TASMANIA</b>										
Number of applications	3,128	4,650	2,513	268	6,348	3,916	102	193	182	10,377
Receiving offer	2,607	3,567	1,640	115	4,414	3,375	84	56	144	7,785
Offer rate	83.3%	76.7%	65.3%	42.9%	69.5%	86.2%	81.7%	29.0%	79.1%	75.0%
Accepting offer	2,086	2,699	1,145	67	3266	2,647	60	24	110	5,887
Acceptance rate	80.0%	75.7%	69.8%	58.3%	74.0%	78.4%	71.5%	42.9%	76.4%	75.6%

**Table A5.1: Eligible applications by field of education time series for Australia, 2002-2011**

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
<b>APPLICATIONS</b>										
Agriculture	4,894	5,113	4,891	4,161	3,888	3,707	4,750	3,877	4,054	3,895
Architecture	5,791	6,289	6,851	6,733	7,157	7,375	7,443	8,125	8,537	8,610
Education	22,575	24,160	24,832	25,308	24,366	22,878	20,637	20,075	21,298	20,584
Engineering	12,274	12,335	12,350	12,162	12,478	13,083	14,085	15,555	15,757	16,634
Health	38,251	42,873	44,902	45,312	47,411	52,158	50,504	52,358	60,253	62,714
<i>Dental Studies</i>	982	1,095	1,431	1,776	2,291	2,436	2,669	3,328	3,470	4,010
<i>Medical Studies</i>	6,834	7,733	8,764	8,316	9,097	11,151	10,274	9,093	11,230	12,425
<i>Nursing</i>	11,314	13,313	13,628	13,675	14,435	15,766	15,448	16,358	20,347	19,866
<i>Veterinary Studies</i>	1,611	1,752	1,749	1,929	1,860	1,907	2,112	2,283	1,970	2,067
<i>Health Other</i>	17,510	18,980	19,330	19,616	19,728	20,898	20,001	21,296	23,236	24,346
Information Technology	13,030	10,324	8,121	6,810	5,619	5,146	4,978	5,478	5,640	5,718
Management/Commerce	37,552	37,218	36,567	35,282	32,990	32,115	31,083	31,836	31,171	31,696
Natural and Physical Sciences	15,140	15,381	15,665	15,003	14,273	13,618	13,795	16,157	18,271	19,661
Society/Culture/Creative Arts	73,221	75,734	74,235	70,552	70,165	68,244	68,452	73,922	76,972	75,991
<i>Justice/Law Enforcement</i>	1,522	1,716	1,570	1,321	1,229	1,134	966	1,309	1,374	1,270
<i>Law</i>	12,863	13,266	13,064	12,372	12,515	12,499	12,541	12,399	12,066	10,889
Food/Hospitality/Personal				34	17	27	23	20	18	17
Mixed Field Programs				231	165	186	384	5	1,278	1,737
<b>Total</b>	<b>222,728</b>	<b>229,427</b>	<b>228,414</b>	<b>221,588</b>	<b>218,529</b>	<b>218,537</b>	<b>216,136</b>	<b>227,408</b>	<b>243,249</b>	<b>246,987</b>

**Table A5.2: Eligible applicants receiving offers and offer rates time series by field of education for Australia, 2002-2011**

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
<b>Offers</b>										
Agriculture	4,956	5,104	5,098	4,304	4,073	3,855	4,991	3,796	4,148	3,945
Architecture	3,948	3,877	3,906	4,620	5,357	5,781	5,912	5,722	6,060	6,156
Education	14,788	14,550	14,991	18,648	19,292	19,133	17,403	16,284	16,865	17,534
Engineering	10,876	10,652	10,525	10,933	11,438	12,177	12,989	13,650	13,834	14,234
Health	23,247	23,805	25,074	29,718	32,106	34,997	34,305	34,104	37,361	38,990
<i>Dental Studies</i>	409	416	567	795	929	1,020	1,059	1,036	1,096	1,101
<i>Medical Studies</i>	1,551	1,781	2,209	2,320	2,640	3,036	2,827	2,016	2,454	2,649
<i>Nursing</i>	8,380	8,452	9,083	10,959	12,027	12,900	12,615	13,593	15,181	15,018
<i>Veterinary Studies</i>	399	394	390	479	583	659	799	667	586	588
<i>Health Other</i>	12,508	12,762	12,825	15,165	15,927	17,382	17,005	16,792	18,044	19,634
Information Technology	9,784	8,937	7,353	6,392	5,515	5,059	4,923	5,031	5,460	5,565
Management/Commerce	28,816	27,897	27,907	29,606	29,528	28,694	27,660	27,850	27,849	29,152
Natural and Physical Sciences	16,349	16,687	16,684	16,519	16,538	16,061	15,089	17,542	19,817	21,045
Society/Culture/Creative Arts	56,039	54,800	53,547	57,812	60,762	59,816	59,231	61,802	64,346	65,739
<i>Justice/Law Enforcement</i>	1,272	1,135	955	1,088	1,167	1,049	914	1,127	1,292	1,261
<i>Law</i>	7,794	7,620	7,305	7,917	8,687	9,161	8,957	8,082	7,512	7,076
Food/Hospitality/Personal				36	13	27	27	24	22	18
Mixed Field Programs				266	247	298	631	6	1,406	1,588
<b>Total</b>	<b>168,803</b>	<b>166,309</b>	<b>165,085</b>	<b>178,854</b>	<b>184,869</b>	<b>185,898</b>	<b>183,161</b>	<b>185,811</b>	<b>197,168</b>	<b>203,996</b>
<b>Offer rate</b>										
Agriculture	101.3%	99.8%	104.2%	103.4%	104.8%	104.0%	105.1%	97.9%	102.3%	101.3%
Architecture	68.2%	61.6%	57.0%	68.6%	74.8%	78.4%	79.4%	70.4%	70.9%	71.5%
Education	65.5%	60.2%	60.4%	73.7%	79.2%	83.6%	84.3%	81.1%	79.2%	85.2%
Engineering	88.6%	86.4%	85.2%	89.9%	91.7%	93.1%	92.2%	87.8%	87.8%	87.0%
Health	60.8%	55.5%	55.8%	65.6%	67.7%	67.1%	67.9%	65.1%	62.0%	62.2%
<i>Dental Studies</i>	41.6%	38.0%	39.6%	44.8%	40.5%	41.9%	39.7%	31.1%	32.1%	27.5%
<i>Medical Studies</i>	22.7%	23.0%	25.2%	27.9%	29.0%	27.2%	27.5%	22.2%	21.9%	21.3%
<i>Nursing</i>	74.1%	63.5%	66.6%	80.1%	83.3%	81.8%	81.7%	83.1%	74.6%	75.6%
<i>Veterinary Studies</i>	24.8%	22.5%	22.3%	24.8%	31.3%	34.6%	37.8%	29.2%	29.8%	28.4%
<i>Health Other</i>	71.4%	67.2%	66.3%	77.3%	80.7%	83.2%	85.0%	78.9%	77.7%	76.5%
Information Technology	75.1%	86.6%	90.5%	93.9%	98.1%	98.3%	98.9%	91.8%	100.0%	97.3%
Management/Commerce	76.7%	75.0%	76.3%	83.9%	89.5%	89.3%	89.0%	87.5%	89.3%	92.0%
Natural and Physical Sciences	108.0%	108.5%	106.5%	110.1%	115.9%	117.9%	109.4%	108.6%	108.5%	107.0%
Society/Culture/Creative Arts	76.5%	72.4%	72.1%	81.9%	86.6%	87.7%	86.5%	83.6%	83.6%	86.5%
<i>Justice/Law Enforcement</i>	83.6%	66.1%	60.8%	82.4%	95.0%	92.5%	94.6%	86.1%	94.0%	99.3%
<i>Law</i>	60.6%	57.4%	55.9%	64.0%	69.4%	73.3%	71.4%	65.2%	62.3%	65.0%
Food/Hospitality/Personal				105.9%	76.5%	100.0%	117.4%	120.0%	122.2%	105.9%
Mixed Field Programs				115.2%	149.7%	160.2%	164.3%	120.0%	110.0%	91.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>75.8%</b>	<b>72.5%</b>	<b>72.3%</b>	<b>80.7%</b>	<b>84.6%</b>	<b>85.1%</b>	<b>84.7%</b>	<b>81.7%</b>	<b>81.1%</b>	<b>82.6%</b>

**Table A5.3: Eligible applicants accepting an offer and acceptance rates time series by field of education for Australia, 2003-2011 (includes deferrals)**

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
<b>Acceptances</b>									
Agriculture	3,840	3,805	3,024	2,877	2,785	3,731	3,120	3,485	2,665
Architecture	3,204	3,257	3,546	3,785	4,747	4,308	5,102	5,331	4,626
Education	12,164	12,410	14,778	15,491	15,171	13,807	13,605	14,002	12,616
Engineering	8,659	8,440	8,439	8,264	9,985	9,287	11,714	11,913	10,981
Health	18,301	19,173	21,145	23,161	25,281	24,883	28,336	30,826	27,244
<i>Dental Studies</i>	266	395	487	630	646	663	739	763	686
<i>Medical Studies</i>	1,232	1,355	1,321	1,453	1,810	1,620	1,667	1,959	1,857
<i>Nursing</i>	7,253	7,726	8,191	9,373	9,788	9,677	11,760	12,917	11,063
<i>Veterinary Studies</i>	254	259	308	414	466	527	504	474	374
<i>Health Other</i>	9,296	9,438	10,838	11,291	12,571	12,396	13,666	14,713	13,264
Information Technology	7,412	5,971	4,973	4,347	3,891	3,716	4,474	4,680	4,344
Management/Commerce	21,983	22,205	22,785	22,440	21,951	20,472	23,877	23,458	21,400
Natural and Physical Sciences	12,974	12,832	12,437	12,333	12,031	10,228	14,563	16,176	14,878
Society/Culture/Creative Arts	43,763	42,476	44,082	45,506	45,678	41,681	52,234	53,729	46,185
<i>Justice/Law Enforcement</i>	824	746	808	896	832	726	925	1,070	1,057
<i>Law</i>	5,987	5,503	5,937	6,278	6,623	5,672	6,741	6,148	4,781
Food/Hospitality/Personal			24	10	16	18	20	18	11
Mixed Field Programs			179	153	188	421	5	1,267	1,322
<b>Total</b>	<b>132,300</b>	<b>130,569</b>	<b>135,412</b>	<b>138,367</b>	<b>141,724</b>	<b>132,552</b>	<b>157,050</b>	<b>164,885</b>	<b>167,159</b>
<b>Acceptance rate</b>									
Agriculture	75.2%	74.6%	70.3%	70.6%	72.2%	74.8%	82.2%	84.0%	82.3%
Architecture	82.6%	83.4%	76.8%	70.7%	82.1%	72.9%	89.2%	88.0%	87.1%
Education	83.6%	82.8%	79.2%	80.3%	79.3%	79.3%	84.1%	83.0%	82.5%
Engineering	81.3%	80.2%	77.2%	72.3%	82.0%	71.5%	86.2%	86.1%	86.1%
Health	76.9%	76.5%	71.2%	72.1%	72.2%	72.5%	83.1%	82.5%	80.3%
<i>Dental Studies</i>	63.9%	69.7%	61.3%	67.8%	63.3%	62.6%	71.3%	69.6%	69.7%
<i>Medical Studies</i>	69.2%	61.3%	56.9%	55.0%	59.6%	57.3%	82.7%	79.8%	76.7%
<i>Nursing</i>	85.8%	85.1%	74.7%	77.9%	75.9%	76.7%	86.6%	85.1%	83.2%
<i>Veterinary Studies</i>	64.5%	66.4%	64.3%	71.0%	70.7%	66.0%	75.6%	80.9%	73.3%
<i>Health Other</i>	72.8%	73.6%	71.5%	70.9%	72.3%	72.9%	81.4%	81.5%	83.8%
Information Technology	82.9%	81.2%	77.8%	78.8%	76.9%	75.5%	89.1%	85.7%	85.8%
Management/Commerce	78.8%	79.6%	77.0%	76.0%	76.5%	74.0%	86.4%	84.2%	82.3%
Natural and Physical Sciences	77.7%	76.9%	75.3%	74.6%	74.9%	67.8%	83.1%	81.2%	80.3%
Society/Culture/Creative Arts	79.9%	79.3%	76.3%	74.9%	76.4%	70.4%	84.8%	83.5%	81.3%
<i>Justice/Law Enforcement</i>	72.6%	78.1%	74.3%	76.8%	79.3%	79.4%	82.1%	82.8%	77.4%
<i>Law</i>	78.6%	75.3%	75.0%	72.3%	72.3%	63.3%	83.6%	81.8%	80.9%
Food/Hospitality/Personal			66.7%	76.9%	59.3%	66.7%	83.3%	81.8%	77.8%
Mixed Field Programs			67.3%	61.9%	63.1%	66.7%	83.3%	90.1%	86.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>79.6%</b>	<b>79.1%</b>	<b>75.7%</b>	<b>74.8%</b>	<b>76.2%</b>	<b>72.4%</b>	<b>84.5%</b>	<b>83.6%</b>	<b>81.9%</b>

**Table A6.1: Applications, offers and acceptances by low SES by field of education, 2011  
(excludes deferrals)**

	All low SES applicants					
	Number of applications	Offers			Acceptances	
		Receiving offer	Not offered	Offer rate	Accepted offer	Acceptance rate
<b>FIELD OF EDUCATION</b>						
Natural and Physical Sciences	3,794	3,779	15	99.6%	2,745	72.6%
Information Technology	1,496	1,239	257	82.8%	966	78.0%
Engineering and Related Technologies	3,371	2,642	729	78.4%	2,058	77.9%
Architecture and Building	1,436	848	588	59.1%	639	75.4%
Agriculture, Environmental and Related Studies	852	812	40	95.3%	535	65.9%
Health	13,108	8,179	4,929	62.4%	5,865	71.7%
<i>Medical Studies</i>	1,360	348	1,012	25.6%	254	73.0%
<i>Nursing</i>	5,825	3,931	1,894	67.5%	2,936	74.7%
<i>Dental Studies</i>	554	140	414	25.3%	106	75.7%
<i>Veterinary Studies</i>	352	99	253	28.1%	65	65.7%
<i>Health Other</i>	5,017	3,661	1,356	73.0%	2,504	68.4%
Education	6,036	4,616	1,420	76.5%	3,437	74.5%
<i>Teacher Education</i>	5,734	4,425	1,309	77.2%	3,293	74.4%
Management and Commerce	5,962	4,978	984	83.5%	3,587	72.1%
Society and Culture	9,934	7,133	2,801	71.8%	5,970	83.7%
<i>Law</i>	1,149	1,023	126	89.0%	761	74.4%
Creative Arts	4,283	2,782	1,501	65.0%	1,970	70.8%
Food, Hospitality and Personal Services	3	2	1	66.7%	1	50.0%
Mixed Field Programs	171	120	51	70.2%	94	78.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>50,446</b>	<b>38,446</b>	<b>12,000</b>	<b>76.2%</b>	<b>27,867</b>	<b>72.5%</b>

**Table A6.2: Applications, offers and acceptances by medium SES by field of education, 2011  
(excludes deferrals)**

	All medium SES applicants					
	Number of applications	Offers			Acceptances	
		Receiving offer	Not offered	Offer rate	Accepted offer	Acceptance rate
<b>FIELD OF EDUCATION</b>						
Natural and Physical Sciences	10,252	10,454	-202	102.0%	7,406	70.8%
Information Technology	3,575	3,116	459	87.2%	2,395	76.9%
Engineering and Related Technologies	8,784	7,236	1,548	82.4%	5,629	77.8%
Architecture and Building	4,503	2,905	1,598	64.5%	2,204	75.9%
Agriculture, Environmental and Related Studies	2,123	1,967	156	92.7%	1,297	65.9%
Health	33,663	21,095	12,568	62.7%	14,296	67.8%
<i>Medical Studies</i>	4,995	1,183	3,812	23.7%	832	70.3%
<i>Nursing</i>	12,100	8,686	3,414	71.8%	6,464	74.4%
<i>Dental Studies</i>	1,890	537	1,353	28.4%	349	65.0%
<i>Veterinary Studies</i>	1,009	282	727	27.9%	180	63.8%
<i>Health Other</i>	13,669	10,407	3,262	76.1%	7,101	68.2%
Education	13,294	10,287	3,007	77.4%	7,460	72.5%
<i>Teacher Education</i>	12,700	9,873	2,827	77.7%	7,141	72.3%
Management and Commerce	16,491	14,105	2,386	85.5%	10,242	72.6%
Society and Culture	26,281	23,059	3,222	87.7%	16,163	70.1%
<i>Law</i>	5,093	3,254	1,839	63.9%	2,336	71.8%
Creative Arts	13,184	8,813	4,371	66.8%	6,327	71.8%
Food, Hospitality and Personal Services	13	11	2	84.6%	8	72.7%
Mixed Field Programs	571	477	94	83.5%	367	76.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>132,734</b>	<b>103,525</b>	<b>29,209</b>	<b>78.0%</b>	<b>74,424</b>	<b>71.9%</b>

**Table A6.3: Applications, offers and acceptances by high SES by field of education, 2011  
(excludes deferrals)**

	All high SES applicants					
	Number of applications	Offers			Acceptances	
		Receiving offer	Not offered	Offer rate	Accepted offer	Acceptance rate
<b>FIELD OF EDUCATION</b>						
Natural and Physical Sciences	6,450	6,995	-545	108.4%	4,933	70.5%
Information Technology	1,709	1,589	120	93.0%	1,243	78.2%
Engineering and Related Technologies	4,795	4,294	501	89.6%	3,283	76.5%
Architecture and Building	3,481	2,469	1,012	70.9%	1,861	75.4%
Agriculture, Environmental and Related Studies	1,234	1,217	17	98.6%	858	70.5%
Health	18,498	10,356	8,142	56.0%	6,903	66.7%
<i>Medical Studies</i>	5,523	1,072	4,451	19.4%	731	68.2%
<i>Nursing</i>	3,929	2,900	1,029	73.8%	2,017	69.6%
<i>Dental Studies</i>	1,371	391	980	28.5%	217	55.5%
<i>Veterinary Studies</i>	670	199	471	29.7%	120	60.3%
<i>Health Other</i>	7,005	5,794	1,211	82.7%	3,818	65.9%
Education	4,318	3,472	846	80.4%	2,279	65.6%
<i>Teacher Education</i>	4,177	3,366	811	80.6%	2,195	65.2%
Management and Commerce	12,254	10,756	1,498	87.8%	7,996	74.3%
Society and Culture	18,865	17,124	1,741	90.8%	11,696	68.3%
<i>Law</i>	4,286	2,757	1,529	64.3%	1,902	69.0%
Creative Arts	10,145	7,233	2,912	71.3%	5,164	71.4%
Food, Hospitality and Personal Services	6	5	1	83.3%	3	60.0%
Mixed Field Programs	1,143	995	148	87.1%	865	86.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>82,898</b>	<b>66,505</b>	<b>16,393</b>	<b>80.2%</b>	<b>47,084</b>	<b>70.8%</b>

**Table A7.1: Applications, offers and acceptances by metropolitan region by field of education, 2011 (excludes deferrals)**

	Metropolitan applicants					
	Number of applications	Offers			Acceptances	
		Receiving offer	Not offered	Offer rate	Accepted offer	Acceptance rate
<b>FIELD OF EDUCATION</b>						
Natural and Physical Sciences	16,037	16,722	- 685	104.3%	12,381	74.0%
Information Technology	5,502	4,817	685	87.5%	3,841	79.8%
Engineering and Related Technologies	13,135	10,934	2,200	83.2%	8,716	79.7%
Architecture and Building	7,917	5,195	2,722	65.6%	4,058	78.1%
Agriculture, Environmental and Related Studies	2,618	2,510	108	95.9%	1,812	72.2%
Health	49,597	28,789	20,808	58.0%	20,612	71.6%
<i>Medical Studies</i>	10,148	1,979	8,169	19.5%	1,392	70.3%
<i>Nursing</i>	15,401	10,592	4,809	68.8%	7,936	74.9%
<i>Dental Studies</i>	3,309	917	2,392	27.7%	562	61.3%
<i>Veterinary Studies</i>	1,397	385	1,013	27.5%	249	64.6%
<i>Health Other</i>	19,341	14,916	4,425	77.1%	10,473	70.2%
Education	16,199	12,155	4,044	75.0%	8,934	73.5%
<i>Teacher Education</i>	15,585	11,787	3,799	75.6%	8,644	73.3%
Management and Commerce	28,808	24,594	4,214	85.4%	18,625	75.7%
Society and Culture	44,055	38,643	5,412	87.7%	27,700	71.7%
<i>Law</i>	9,207	5,820	3,388	63.2%	4,220	72.5%
Creative Arts	21,968	14,898	7,069	67.8%	11,038	74.1%
Food, Hospitality and Personal Services	20	16	4	80.9%	12	75.0%
Mixed Field Programs	1,734	1,452	282	83.7%	1,225	84.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>207,589</b>	<b>160,725</b>	<b>46,864</b>	<b>77.4%</b>	<b>118,955</b>	<b>74.0%</b>

**Table A7.2: Applications, offers and acceptances by non-metropolitan region by field of education, 2011 (excludes deferrals)**

	Non-Metropolitan Applicants					
	Number of applications	Offers			Acceptances	
		Receiving offer	Not offered	Offer rate	Accepted offer	Acceptance rate
<b>FIELD OF EDUCATION</b>						
Natural and Physical Sciences	4,555	4,601	- 46	101.0%	2,755	59.9%
Information Technology	1,304	1,149	155	88.1%	774	67.3%
Engineering and Related Technologies	3,896	3,311	586	85.0%	2,291	69.2%
Architecture and Building	1,535	1,053	482	68.6%	659	62.5%
Agriculture, Environmental and Related Studies	1,618	1,518	100	93.8%	891	58.7%
Health	15,897	10,980	4,917	69.1%	7,162	65.2%
<i>Medical Studies</i>	1,766	633	1,133	35.9%	432	68.2%
<i>Nursing</i>	6,536	4,984	1,552	76.3%	3,520	70.6%
<i>Dental Studies</i>	516	152	364	29.5%	110	72.5%
<i>Veterinary Studies</i>	644	199	444	30.9%	118	59.4%
<i>Health Other</i>	6,436	5,012	1,424	77.9%	2,982	59.5%
Education	7,545	6,294	1,251	83.4%	4,277	68.0%
<i>Teacher Education</i>	6,739	5,633	1,107	83.6%	4,015	71.3%
Management and Commerce	6,010	5,349	661	89.0%	3,267	61.1%
Society and Culture	11,264	10,185	1,079	90.4%	6,235	61.2%
<i>Law</i>	1,891	1,237	653	65.4%	790	63.9%
Creative Arts	5,763	4,017	1,747	69.7%	2,473	61.6%
Food, Hospitality and Personal Services	3	3	-	100.0%	-	-
Mixed Field Programs	152	141	11	92.6%	102	72.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>59,544</b>	<b>48,601</b>	<b>10,943</b>	<b>81.6%</b>	<b>30,885</b>	<b>63.5%</b>

**Table A8.1: Applications, offers and acceptances by Indigenous status by field of education, 2011 (excludes deferrals)**

	Applicants identifying as Indigenous					
	Number of applications	Offers			Acceptances	
		Receiving offer	Not offered	Offer rate	Accepted offer	Acceptance rate
<b>FIELD OF EDUCATION</b>						
Natural and Physical Sciences	159	131	28	82.4%	90	68.7%
Information Technology	61	54	7	88.5%	41	75.9%
Engineering and Related Technologies	117	82	35	70.1%	66	80.5%
Architecture and Building	82	54	28	65.9%	37	68.5%
Agriculture, Environmental and Related Studies	49	43	6	87.8%	32	74.4%
Health	776	518	258	66.8%	378	73.0%
<i>Medical Studies</i>	69	42	27	60.9%	36	85.7%
<i>Nursing</i>	406	266	140	65.5%	199	74.8%
<i>Dental Studies</i>	22	15	7	68.2%	10	66.7%
<i>Veterinary Studies</i>	19	8	11	42.1%	7	87.5%
<i>Health Other</i>	260	187	73	71.9%	126	67.4%
Education	450	323	127	71.8%	245	75.9%
<i>Teacher Education</i>	441	316	125	71.7%	238	75.3%
Management and Commerce	241	202	39	83.8%	138	68.3%
Society and Culture	747	580	167	77.6%	407	70.2%
<i>Law</i>	142	73	69	51.4%	56	76.7%
<i>Justice and Law Enforcement</i>	41	30	11	73.2%	17	56.7%
Creative Arts	293	201	92	68.6%	144	71.6%
Hospitality and Personal Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mixed field programs	20	23	- 3	115.0%	18	78.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,995</b>	<b>2,211</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>73.8%</b>	<b>1,596</b>	<b>72.2%</b>

**Table A9.1: Current Year 12 applications, offers and offer rates by state by ATAR, 2011**

	NSW/ACT	Vic.	Qld	WA	SA/NT	Tas.	Australia
<b>APPLICATIONS</b>							
90.05 or more	11,944	9,057	6,319	3,547	3,630	1,390	35,887
80.05-90.00	9,643	7,545	5,722	2,815	2,080	659	28,464
70.05-80.00	8,423	7,031	4,499	2,363	1,835	434	24,585
60.05-70.00	6,712	6,498	4,676	1,686	1,510	308	21,390
50.05-60.00	4,704	5,126	2,763	914	1,185	173	14,865
40.05-50.00	2,798	3,729	365	370	544	89	7,895
30.05-40.00	1,430	1,954	82	129	150	33	3,778
20.05-30.00	650	637	7	42	12	-	1,348
10.05-20.00	242	275	-	14	1	-	532
10.00 or less	10	201	-	3	3	-	217
Not scored	334	1,085	2,227	486	466	348	4,946
<b>Total</b>	<b>46,890</b>	<b>43,138</b>	<b>26,660</b>	<b>12,369</b>	<b>11,416</b>	<b>3,434</b>	<b>143,907</b>
<b>OFFERS</b>							
90.05 or more	11,256	8,645	5,669	3,110	2,935	778	32,393
80.05-90.00	9,466	7,326	5,426	2,745	1,955	567	27,485
70.05-80.00	8,164	6,494	4,121	2,299	1,785	395	23,258
60.05-70.00	6,172	5,398	3,758	1,475	1,421	277	18,501
50.05-60.00	3,337	3,318	1,258	544	918	146	9,521
40.05-50.00	955	664	69	26	149	79	1,942
30.05-40.00	214	73	17	12	12	22	350
20.05-30.00	81	16	1	-	-	-	98
10.05-20.00	11	2	-	-	-	-	13
10.00 or less	-	25	-	-	-	-	25
Not scored	172	67	1,351	241	119	234	2,184
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,828</b>	<b>32,028</b>	<b>21,670</b>	<b>10,452</b>	<b>9,294</b>	<b>2,498</b>	<b>115,770</b>
<b>OFFER RATES</b>							
90.05 or more	94.2%	95.5%	89.7%	87.7%	80.9%	56.0%	90.3%
80.05-90.00	98.2%	97.1%	94.8%	97.5%	94.0%	86.0%	96.6%
70.05-80.00	96.9%	92.4%	91.6%	97.3%	97.3%	91.0%	94.6%
60.05-70.00	92.0%	83.1%	80.4%	87.5%	94.1%	89.9%	86.5%
50.05-60.00	70.9%	64.7%	45.5%	59.5%	77.5%	84.4%	64.0%
40.05-50.00	34.1%	17.8%	18.9%	7.0%	27.4%	88.8%	24.6%
30.05-40.00	15.0%	3.7%	20.7%	9.3%	8.0%	66.7%	9.3%
20.05-30.00	12.5%	2.5%	14.3%	-	-	-	7.3%
10.05-20.00	4.5%	0.7%	-	-	-	-	2.4%
10.00 or less	-	12.4%	-	-	-	-	11.5%
Not scored	51.5%	6.2%	60.7%	49.6%	25.5%	67.2%	44.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>84.9%</b>	<b>74.2%</b>	<b>81.3%</b>	<b>84.5%</b>	<b>81.4%</b>	<b>72.7%</b>	<b>80.4%</b>

**Table A9.2: Current Year 12 acceptances and acceptance rates by state by ATAR, 2011  
(includes deferrals)**

	NSW/ACT	Vic.	Qld	WA	SA/NT	Tas.	Australia
<b>ACCEPTANCES</b>							
90.05 or more	9,589	6,920	4,838	2,631	2,057	380	26,415
80.05-90.00	8,385	6,353	4,986	2,506	1,675	429	24,334
70.05-80.00	6,865	5,589	3,766	2,018	1,581	305	20,124
60.05-70.00	4,922	4,409	3,397	1,231	1,261	179	15,399
50.05-60.00	2,571	2,555	1,113	424	801	105	7,569
40.05-50.00	742	490	53	23	129	47	1,484
30.05-40.00	172	64	13	9	10	13	281
20.05-30.00	66	10	1	-	-	-	77
10.05-20.00	6	2	-	-	-	-	8
10.00 or less	-	16	-	-	-	-	16
Not scored	134	44	1,091	165	106	162	1,702
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,452</b>	<b>26,452</b>	<b>19,258</b>	<b>9,007</b>	<b>7,620</b>	<b>1,620</b>	<b>97,409</b>
<b>ACCEPTANCE RATES</b>							
90.05 or more	85.2%	80.0%	85.3%	84.6%	70.1%	48.8%	81.5%
80.05-90.00	88.6%	86.7%	91.9%	91.3%	85.7%	75.7%	88.5%
70.05-80.00	84.1%	86.1%	91.4%	87.8%	88.6%	77.2%	86.5%
60.05-70.00	79.7%	81.7%	90.4%	83.5%	88.7%	64.6%	83.2%
50.05-60.00	77.0%	77.0%	88.5%	77.9%	87.3%	71.9%	79.5%
40.05-50.00	77.7%	73.8%	76.8%	88.5%	86.6%	59.5%	76.4%
30.05-40.00	80.4%	87.7%	76.5%	75.0%	83.3%	59.1%	80.3%
20.05-30.00	81.5%	62.5%	100.0%	-	-	-	78.6%
10.05-20.00	54.5%	100.0%	-	-	-	-	61.5%
10.00 or less	-	64.0%	-	-	-	-	64.0%
Not scored	77.9%	65.7%	80.8%	68.5%	89.1%	69.2%	77.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>84.0%</b>	<b>82.6%</b>	<b>88.9%</b>	<b>86.2%</b>	<b>82.0%</b>	<b>64.9%</b>	<b>84.1%</b>

**Table A9.3: Current Year 12 students aged 20 or less applying in their home state Applications and application rate by ATAR, 2004- 2011**

		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
<b>CURRENT YEAR 12 STUDENTS AGED 20 OR LESS APPLYING IN THEIR HOME STATE</b>									
<b>Students</b>	90.05 or more	25,698	25,525	25,592	26,316	27,110	27,135	27,447	27,862
	80.05-90.00	25,956	25,688	25,775	26,299	26,330	25,367	26,078	26,639
	70.05-80.00	25,448	24,395	24,523	24,688	25,088	24,762	24,750	25,639
	60.05-70.00	22,246	20,884	21,298	21,963	22,453	22,596	22,790	23,904
	50.05-60.00	20,161	18,035	18,233	16,955	16,798	19,572	19,629	19,544
	40.05-50.00	15,610	13,069	12,769	12,686	12,284	15,233	14,700	15,768
	30.05-40.00	9,498	8,945	8,178	8,085	8,687	8,682	8,922	10,243
	20.05-30.00	6,679	6,347	5,747	4,333	4,183	5,235	4,863	5,153
	10.05-20.00	4,348	4,011	3,989	3,201	3,079	3,782	2,407	2,394
	10.00 or less	3,496	1,924	2,344	2,357	2,203	1,410	504	450
	Not scored	37,206	48,161	47,636	32,270	32,791	33,715	31,196	37,395
	<b>Total</b>	<b>196,346</b>	<b>196,984</b>	<b>196,084</b>	<b>179,153</b>	<b>181,006</b>	<b>187,489</b>	<b>183,286</b>	<b>194,991</b>
<b>Home state applications</b>	90.05 or more	24,751	24,562	23,808	24,417	24,949	24,081	26,391	26,322
	80.05-90.00	24,268	24,166	22,939	23,466	23,345	23,666	25,376	25,372
	70.05-80.00	22,418	21,921	20,891	21,033	21,218	22,284	22,914	22,574
	60.05-70.00	17,083	16,477	15,960	16,929	17,130	17,897	18,771	19,941
	50.05-60.00	12,196	11,502	11,199	10,690	10,840	11,890	12,500	13,924
	40.05-50.00	6,941	6,327	5,956	6,201	6,170	7,374	6,806	7,441
	30.05-40.00	3,455	3,034	2,685	2,864	3,259	3,584	3,369	3,579
	20.05-30.00	1,709	1,556	1,316	1,079	1,160	1,500	1,352	1,295
	10.05-20.00	775	581	638	627	673	734	558	518
	10.00 or less	206	183	234	309	298	323	186	194
	Not scored	1,150	1,069	814	1,097	1,201	963	2,897	3,891
	<b>Total</b>	<b>114,952</b>	<b>111,378</b>	<b>106,440</b>	<b>108,712</b>	<b>110,243</b>	<b>114,296</b>	<b>121,120</b>	<b>125,051</b>
<b>Home state applications as a percentage of all students</b>	90.05 or more	96.3%	96.2%	93.0%	92.8%	92.0%	88.7%	96.2%	94.5%
	80.05-90.00	93.5%	94.1%	89.0%	89.2%	88.7%	93.3%	97.3%	95.2%
	70.05-80.00	88.1%	89.9%	85.2%	85.2%	84.6%	90.0%	92.6%	88.0%
	60.05-70.00	76.8%	78.9%	74.9%	77.1%	76.3%	79.2%	82.4%	83.4%
	50.05-60.00	60.5%	63.8%	61.4%	63.0%	64.5%	60.8%	63.7%	71.2%
	40.05-50.00	44.5%	48.4%	46.6%	48.9%	50.2%	48.4%	46.3%	47.2%
	30.05-40.00	36.4%	33.9%	32.8%	35.4%	37.5%	41.3%	37.8%	34.9%
	20.05-30.00	25.6%	24.5%	22.9%	24.9%	27.7%	28.7%	27.8%	25.1%
	10.05-20.00	17.8%	14.5%	16.0%	19.6%	21.9%	19.4%	23.2%	21.6%
	10.00 or less	5.9%	9.5%	10.0%	13.1%	13.5%	22.9%	36.9%	43.1%
	Not scored	3.1%	2.2%	1.7%	3.4%	3.7%	2.9%	9.3%	10.4%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>58.5%</b>	<b>56.5%</b>	<b>54.3%</b>	<b>60.7%</b>	<b>60.9%</b>	<b>61.0%</b>	<b>66.1%</b>	<b>64.1%</b>

**Table A10.1: Applicants receiving an offer by first and other than first preference by state and territory, 2011**

	NSW/ACT	Vic.	Qld	WA	SA/NT	Tas.	AUSTRALIA
Applicants receiving an offer for highest preference	42,891	31,288	29,043	13,156	14,293	6,908	<b>137,579</b>
Highest preference offers as a percentage of all offers	62.0%	57.2%	66.9%	78.3%	72.7%	87.1%	<b>65.0%</b>
Percentage of applicants receiving highest preference offer	50.8%	42.0%	51.8%	64.0%	57.3%	65.4%	<b>50.0%</b>
Applicants accepting an offer for highest preference	37,003	27,099	26,847	11,816	11,985	5,514	<b>120,264</b>
Acceptance rate of applicants receiving highest preference offer	86.3%	86.6%	92.4%	89.8%	83.9%	79.8%	<b>87.4%</b>

**Table A11.1: TAC Applications by institution, 2010 and 2011**

<b>Institution</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>% change</b>
<b>New South Wales</b>			
Charles Sturt University	4,298	4,320	0.5%
Macquarie University	6,880	7,298	6.1%
Southern Cross University	2,742	2,578	-6.0%
The University of New England	1,531	1,505	-1.7%
The University of New South Wales	10,865	11,079	2.0%
The University of Newcastle	9,651	9,881	2.4%
The University of Sydney	14,631	14,280	-2.4%
University of Technology, Sydney	9,906	9,862	-0.4%
University of Western Sydney	11,776	11,717	-0.5%
University of Wollongong	3,685	3,844	4.3%
<b>Victoria</b>			
Deakin University	12,301	11,781	-4.2%
La Trobe University	8,377	9,378	11.9%
Monash University	15,148	15,658	3.4%
RMIT University	13,232	14,193	7.3%
Swinburne University of Technology	3,314	3,655	10.3%
The University of Melbourne	8,995	9,483	5.4%
University of Ballarat	1,718	1,801	4.8%
Victoria University	5,427	5,063	-6.7%
<b>Queensland</b>			
Central Queensland University	3,114	3,021	-3.0%
Griffith University	11,828	12,211	3.2%
James Cook University	5,675	5,381	-5.2%
Queensland University of Technology	13,806	13,513	-2.1%
The University of Queensland	14,169	14,405	1.7%
University of Southern Queensland	4,378	3,736	-14.7%
University of the Sunshine Coast	2,569	2,470	-3.9%
<b>South Australia</b>			
Flinders University of South Australia	5,133	5,479	6.7%
The University of Adelaide	7,348	8,019	9.1%
University of South Australia	9,419	9,020	-4.2%
<b>Western Australia</b>			
Curtin University of Technology	6,993	7,026	0.5%
Edith Cowan University	4,343	3,491	-19.6%
Murdoch University	2,837	2,894	2.0%
The University of Western Australia	6,661	7,147	7.3%
<b>Tasmania</b>			
University of Tasmania	9,692	10,644	9.8%
<b>Northern Territory</b>			
Charles Darwin University	2,335	2,422	3.7%
<b>Australian Capital Territory</b>			
The Australian National University	3,326	3,333	0.2%
University of Canberra	1,905	2,168	13.8%
<b>Multi-State</b>			
Australian Catholic University	6,988	7,361	5.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>266,996</b>	<b>271,117</b>	<b>1.5%</b>

**Table A11.2: Offers and offer rates to TAC applications by institution, 2010 and 2011**

Institution	Offers		Offer rates	
	2010	2011	2010	2011
<b>New South Wales</b>				
Charles Sturt University	4,308	4,160	100.2%	96.3%
Macquarie University	5,695	5,966	82.8%	81.7%
Southern Cross University	2,549	2,528	93.0%	98.1%
The University of New England	1,555	1,670	101.6%	111.0%
The University of New South Wales	7,531	7,545	69.3%	68.1%
The University of Newcastle	7,971	8,219	82.6%	83.2%
The University of Sydney	9,543	9,217	65.2%	64.5%
University of Technology, Sydney	5,884	6,861	59.4%	69.6%
University of Western Sydney	12,318	12,470	104.6%	106.4%
University of Wollongong	3,273	3,267	88.8%	85.0%
<b>Victoria</b>				
Deakin University	7,247	8,554	58.9%	72.6%
La Trobe University	7,460	8,532	89.1%	91.0%
Monash University	8,863	8,992	58.5%	57.4%
RMIT University	7,044	7,629	53.2%	53.8%
Swinburne University of Technology	3,466	3,634	104.6%	99.4%
The University of Melbourne	5,749	6,175	63.9%	65.1%
University of Ballarat	1,972	2,033	114.8%	112.9%
Victoria University	6,849	6,660	126.2%	131.5%
<b>Queensland</b>				
Central Queensland University	2,672	2,857	85.8%	94.6%
Griffith University	9,746	8,872	82.4%	72.7%
James Cook University	3,930	4,046	69.3%	75.2%
Queensland University of Technology	9,653	9,638	69.9%	71.3%
The University of Queensland	9,604	9,889	67.8%	68.6%
University of Southern Queensland	3,044	3,377	69.5%	90.4%
University of the Sunshine Coast	2,375	2,397	92.4%	97.0%
<b>South Australia</b>				
Flinders University of South Australia	4,367	4,765	85.1%	87.0%
The University of Adelaide	5,165	5,473	70.3%	68.3%
University of South Australia	7,713	7,346	81.9%	81.4%
<b>Western Australia</b>				
Curtin University of Technology	5,894	5,896	84.3%	83.9%
Edith Cowan University	4,001	3,341	92.1%	95.7%
Murdoch University	2,557	2,842	90.1%	98.2%
The University of Western Australia	4,593	4,733	69.0%	66.2%
<b>Tasmania</b>				
University of Tasmania	7,325	8,023	75.6%	75.4%
<b>Northern Territory</b>				
Charles Darwin University	2,078	2,070	89.0%	85.5%
<b>Australian Capital Territory</b>				
The Australian National University	2,682	2,638	80.6%	79.1%
University of Canberra	2,199	2,509	115.4%	115.7%
<b>Multi-State</b>				
Australian Catholic University	5,919	6,830	84.7%	92.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>204,794</b>	<b>211,654</b>	<b>76.7%</b>	<b>78.1%</b>

**Table A11.3: Direct Applications, offers and offer rates by institution, 2011**

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Applications</b>	<b>Offers</b>	<b>Offer rates</b>
<b>New South Wales</b>			
Charles Sturt University	5,899	5,222	88.5%
Macquarie University	1,692	1,218	72.0%
Southern Cross University	2,829	2,508	88.7%
The University of New England	3,980	3,291	82.7%
The University of New South Wales	1,304	1,222	93.7%
The University of Newcastle	1,822	1,822	100.0%
The University of Sydney	1,016	951	93.6%
University of Technology, Sydney	1,047	849	81.1%
University of Western Sydney	2,092	1,389	66.4%
University of Wollongong	3,321	2,158	65.0%
<b>Victoria</b>			
Deakin University	2,206	1,758	79.7%
La Trobe University	2,613	1,995	76.3%
Monash University	2,264	1,911	84.4%
RMIT University	592	564	95.3%
Swinburne University of Technology	907	580	63.9%
The University of Melbourne	2,807	954	34.0%
University of Ballarat	856	407	47.5%
Victoria University	2,358	1,495	63.4%
<b>Queensland</b>			
Central Queensland University	834	741	88.8%
Griffith University	2,148	1,970	91.7%
James Cook University	1,238	1,075	86.8%
Queensland University of Technology	2,970	2,695	90.7%
The University of Queensland	818	625	76.4%
University of Southern Queensland	1,689	1,264	74.8%
University of the Sunshine Coast	823	755	91.7%
<b>South Australia</b>			
Flinders University of South Australia	582	574	98.6%
The University of Adelaide	688	481	69.9%
University of South Australia	849	590	69.5%
<b>Western Australia</b>			
Curtin University of Technology	2,686	2,151	80.1%
Edith Cowan University	7,168	6,446	89.9%
Murdoch University	1,754	1,538	87.7%
The University of Notre Dame Australia	2,410	1,238	51.4%
The University of Western Australia	1,285	953	74.2%
<b>Northern Territory</b>			
Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education	40	40	100.0%
Charles Darwin University	46	46	100.0%
<b>Australian Capital Territory</b>			
The Australian National University	914	700	76.6%
University of Canberra	2,279	1,859	81.6%
<b>Multi-State</b>			
Australian Catholic University	749	392	52.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>71,575</b>	<b>56,427</b>	<b>78.8%</b>

The numbers do not match with the tables in Chapter 11 (Direct Applicants) due to double counting. Tertiary Admission Centre for Tasmania is run by the University of Tasmania. Therefore, both direct and TAC applications are lodged at the University of Tasmania.

**Table A12.1: Types of university**

Types of university	
<p><b>Group of Eight Member Universities (Go8)</b>            Monash University            The Australian National University            The University of Adelaide            The University of Melbourne            The University of New South Wales            The University of Queensland            The University of Sydney            The University of Western Australia</p> <p><b>Innovative Research Universities Australia (IRUA)</b>            Charles Darwin University            Flinders University of South Australia            Griffith University            James Cook University            La Trobe University            Murdoch University            The University of Newcastle</p> <p><b>Technology Universities</b>            Curtin University of Technology            Queensland University of Technology            RMIT University            University of South Australia            University of Technology, Sydney</p>	<p><b>Non-Aligned Universities</b>            Australian Catholic University            Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education            Bond University            Central Queensland University*            Charles Sturt University            Deakin University            Edith Cowan University            Macquarie University            Southern Cross University*            Swinburne University of Technology            The University of New England*            The University of Notre Dame Australia            University of Ballarat*            University of Canberra            University of Southern Queensland*            University of Tasmania            University of the Sunshine Coast*            University of Western Sydney            University of Wollongong            Victoria University</p>

\* On 14th October 2011, the Regional Universities Network (RUN) was formed comprising Central Queensland University, Southern Cross University, University of Ballarat, University of New England, University of Southern Queensland and University of the Sunshine Coast. 2011 applications, offers and acceptance data predate the formation of RUN.

## Appendix 2 – Glossary

**Acceptance:** Applicants accepting offers are those who have advised the TACs that they have accepted conditionally or unconditionally the offer they have received. Not all universities require applicants to respond to the state TACs. Acceptance rates are therefore slightly understated. Acceptance rates were more seriously understated in previous years. Students known to have deferred their offers are reported as having accepted. An acceptance does not necessarily mean that the student will enrol in that course and in some states advising the TACs that they are rejecting the offer does not prevent the applicant from enrolling with the university based on that offer.

**Acceptance rate:** The acceptance rate is the proportion of applicants with an offer who formally accept that offer through a TAC. Not all universities require applicants to respond to the state TACs. Acceptance rates are therefore slightly understated. Acceptance rates were more seriously understated in previous years.

**Age:** Age is calculated as at the 31 December 2010. Applicants' age is reported by four age groups (16 and under; 17 to 19; 20 to 24; and 25 and over). Previous reports based on aggregate data reported only on the very broad age groups '20 and under' or '21 and over'.

**Apparent Retention Rates:** This is a measure of the number of school students in a designated year of education expressed as a percentage of their respective cohort group in a base year. In this publication, the base year is the commencement of secondary school and rates have been calculated for those who continued to Years 9, 10, 11 and 12. The base year, or year of commencement, varies between jurisdictions (states and territories), and over time. These variations are incorporated into calculation of ARRs at the Australia level. Care should be exercised in the interpretation of apparent retention rates as the method of calculation does not take into account a range of factors. At the national level these include students repeating a year of education, inter-sector transfer and interstate movements of students, migration and other net changes to the school population.

**Applicant:** For the purposes of this report, a valid applicant is defined as an Australian or New Zealand citizen, permanent resident or permanent humanitarian visa holder who has applied through a TAC during the 2010-11 admissions cycle and who expressed at least one preference for a Commonwealth supported places in a higher education undergraduate award course at a Table A or B Higher Education Provider (HEP).

**Application:** A valid application is one submitted to a TAC during the 2010-11 admission cycle by an Australian or New Zealand citizen, permanent resident or permanent humanitarian visa holder, provided that least one preference for a Commonwealth supported places in a higher education undergraduate award course at a Table A or B HEP. Applications are excluded if they have been cancelled by TACs as duplicates or because the applicant is known to be deceased or has falsified documentation or for other administrative reasons. An applicant may make multiple applications during the application process and each submission is considered a separate application.

**Australasian Curriculum Assessment Certification Authorities (ACACA) Year 12 programs:** Each State has its own approved Year 12 program. ACACA is the national body responsible for monitoring senior secondary curricula and certification in Australia and New Zealand. The current programs by State are: NSW Higher School Certificate, ACT Year 12 Certificate, Queensland Certificate of Education, Queensland Senior Certificate, South Australian Certificate of Education, Northern Territory Certificate of Education, Tasmanian Certificate of Education, Victorian Certificate of Education, Western Australian Certificate of Education. ACACA Year 12 programs may be undertaken in schools, VET institutions or HEPs.

**Award:** A certification of achievement or competence recognised under the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) which is granted to a student after completion of all the requirements of an ACACA program, higher education course or VET course.

**Basis of admission:** The main criterion on which the applicant was granted an offer. Basis of admission can be: secondary education (undertaken at a school, TAFE or HEP); higher education; TAFE/vocational education; professional qualification; mature age special entry provision; other.

**Current Year 12 applicant:** An applicant who attempted an ACACA Year 12 program or the International Baccalaureate (IB) in 2010.

**Eligible applicant:** Eligible applicant is a concept used as part of the method of estimating unmet demand. It is not part of the administrative process of university admissions through TACs. 'Eligible Applicants' excludes applicants applying on the basis of a current Year 12 qualification whose ATAR is below an agreed benchmark, set to correspond to the bottom end of a Queensland Overall Position (OP) of 18. This figure varies slightly from year to year. For applicants completing Year 12 in 2010, the figure was 54.95.

**Domestic applicant:** A domestic applicant is an applicant who is an Australian citizen, New Zealand citizen, permanent humanitarian visa holder or other permanent visa holder.

**Field of education:** The field of education (FoE) is a classification used to describe higher education courses with the same or similar vocational emphasis or principal subject matter of the course, specialisation and units of study. FoE is identified using Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED) codes. There are 12 broad fields of education. This report disaggregates applications, offers and acceptances by all ASCED broad fields of education, plus selected narrow fields of education that are of particular interest to stakeholders.

**Higher education provider:** Universities and higher education institutions listed in section 16-B of *Higher Education Support Act 2003* and providers as determined by the Minister under section 16-35 of the Act.

**Highest preference:** The highest preference entered by an applicant for a place and course that is considered valid (that is, a Commonwealth-supported place in a higher education undergraduate award course at a Table A or B HEP). In TACs where an applicant can apply for VET and/or postgraduate this may not be their first preference. For both applications and offers, the preference number is the ordinal position of the course as at the reference date (for this report, 18 May 2011).

**Home state applicant:** An applicant is defined as a home state applicant if he or she is a) a current Year 12 applicant who completed an ACACA Year 12 program in a state or territory under the jurisdiction of the TAC to which they have applied; or b) a current Year 12 applicant who completed the International Baccalaureate and whose address of permanent home residence in a state or territory under the jurisdiction of the TAC to which he or she has applied; or c) an applicant other than a current Year 12 applicant whose address of permanent home residence is in a state or territory under the jurisdiction of the TAC to which he or she has applied.

**Indigenous status:** Persons who identify themselves as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent. In this report, this group is also referred to as Indigenous. Note that Indigenous status is a self-identification measure. It is generally believed that many Indigenous applicants choose not to identify as Indigenous during the applications process. The category non-Indigenous in this data therefore includes some Indigenous applicants.

**Interstate applicant:** An applicant is defined as an interstate applicant if he or she is a) a current Year 12 applicant who completed an ACACA Year 12 program in a state or territory not under the jurisdiction of the TAC to which he or she has applied; or b) a current Year 12 applicant who completed the International Baccalaureate and whose address of permanent home residence is in a state or territory not under the jurisdiction of the TAC to which he or she applies; or c) an applicant other than a current Year 12 applicant whose address of permanent home residence is in a state or territory not under the jurisdiction of the TAC to which he or she has applied.

**Interstate Transfer Index:** The Interstate Transfer Index (ITI) presents the State Tertiary Entrance Ranks from all years in a comparable fashion, allowing better analysis of difference between states. Since 1998, all states and territories, except for Queensland, have adopted the ITI as the state measure of student achievement, but with different names (see the definition of state's Tertiary Entrance Ranks for each name). This means that the measure in NSW, ACT, VIC, SA, NT WA, and TAS are exactly the same. The Queensland OP is mapped to the ITI using an agreed scale. While ITI is the term used by the TACs the more widely used term is Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR)

**Low socioeconomic status:** The bottom quartile of the population, defined by postcode according to the ABS Socio-Economic Index for Areas (SEIFA).

**Main round offers:** The main round of offers takes place in late January and early February. Exact dates for this offer round vary between the state TACs.

**Mature aged applicant:** This report uses the age group 25 and over as a definition of mature aged applicant. This definition does not stipulate what the basis of admission is as it solely is based on age.

**MCEETYA regional classification:** A classification of postcodes by region/remoteness, agreed by the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA). It divides postcodes into eight categories (plus a further category for postcodes whose regionality cannot be determined). In this report, these categories are aggregated into three groups (metropolitan; regional and remote) plus a category for unknown plus people residing outside Australia.

**National priority area:** Areas for which the Australian Government offers additional assistance, either through offering additional places, increasing Commonwealth contributions or reducing the maximum student contribution amounts for a place. Currently, education and nursing are the national priority areas.

**Non-Year 12 applicant:** An applicant is classified as a non-Year 12 applicant if they have applied from admission on the basis of any qualification other than Year 12 results. This includes prior university undergraduate degrees, postgraduate studies, VET award courses, STAT scores, employment experience and/or special entry provisions.

**Offer:** An offer of a place to an applicant to study a particular course made by TACs on behalf of a university. An offer is in scope for the purposes of this report if it is for a Commonwealth supported place in higher education undergraduate award course at a Table A or B HEP.

**Offer rate:** The offer rate is a percentage calculated as the number of valid offers made to applicants with at least one valid preference divided by the number of applicants with at least one valid preference.

**Overall Position:** Overall Position (OP) provides a state-wide rank order of Queensland Year 12 students (on a scale of 1 to 25, 1 being the highest) based on students' achievement in subjects studied for the Queensland Senior Certificate.

**Postgraduate course:** A course of study that leads to the award of a graduate certificate, graduate diploma, master's degree or doctorate.

**Preference:** The current process allows for applicants to apply for several courses in the same application. The number of preferences allowed varies by TAC. Applicants must enter their preferences for courses in order of choice. The ordinal position of each preference in a set of preferences is reported as at the reference date (18 May, 2011 for this report).

**Prior higher education:** Applicants who have participated in one or more higher education courses (postgraduate, degree courses or sub-degree courses (non-VET)) at any time before 2011, whether they completed the course(s) or not. Applicants will still be classified as having prior higher education if they are current Year 12 (2010) applicants.

**Prior VET:** Applicants who have participated in one or more award VET courses any time before 2011, whether they completed the course(s) or not. Applicants will still be classified as having prior VET if they have subsequently participated in higher education courses, or if they are current Year 12 (2010) applicants.

**Regional:** In this report, a resident of a postcode area in MCEETYA regional categories 3 to 6.

**Qualification:** An award or some other form of certification of attainment, competence or attendance.

**Rejection rate:** The rejection rate is a percentage calculated as the number of applicants who did not accept their offer divided by the number of valid offers made to applicants with at least one valid preference. It is the inverse of the acceptance rate.

**Remote:** In this report, a resident of postcodes in the MCEETYA regional categories 7 and 8.

- SEIFA:** The Socio-Economic Index for Areas. An ABS categorisation of Australian postcodes into quartiles based on the average SES of residents. More information on SEIFA is available at [http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/Seifa\\_entry\\_page](http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/Seifa_entry_page).
- Secondary education 2008-10:** Applicants who completed Year 12 in any of the three years preceding the academic year for which they submitted an application for a university place (namely, 2008, 2009 or 2010).
- Socioeconomic Status:** A measure of an applicants' social background based on postcode of permanent home residence. This measure divides Australian postcodes into quartiles.
- State tertiary entrance ranks:** Nationwide the ACACA Year 12 programs result in a measure of overall achievement. This is a secondary qualification achieved by an applicant upon completing the ACACA Year 12 program. Since 1998, all states and territories except Queensland have used the same methodology for calculating the overall measure of student achievement. In NSW and the ACT the result code is called the Universities Admissions Index (UAI); SA, NT, TAS and WA it is the Tertiary Entrance Rank (TER); QLD the Overall Position (OP) and VIC the Equivalent National Tertiary Entrance Rank (ENTER). Since June 2009 the UAI became the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR). The International Baccalaureate (IB) is an international qualification approved by ACACA in a number of states. ATAR is used in all states and territories except in Queensland.
- Technical and Further Education (TAFE):** Government-funded VET providers in the states and territories.
- Tertiary Admission Centre:** Tertiary Admission Centres (TACs) are owned by universities but have different governance arrangements. TACs manage the application and offer on behalf of their member universities. Each TAC is separate and independent. Nationwide the following TACs operate: University Admission Centre (UAC) in NSW and the ACT; Victorian Tertiary Admission Centre (VTAC); Queensland Tertiary Admission Centre (QTAC); South Australian Tertiary Admission Centre (SATAC) in South Australia and the Northern Territory and Tertiary Institutions Service Centre (TISC) in Western Australia. The University of Tasmania (UTAS) acts as a TAC for Tasmania.
- Undergraduate course:** A course of study at a HEP that leads to the award of an undergraduate qualification. This includes a diploma, advanced diploma, associate degree or a bachelor degree (pass, honours or graduate entry).
- Unmet demand:** Unmet demand is an estimate that adjusts the raw number of qualified applicants who did not receive an offer to discount for Year 12 applicants with low ATAR scores, multiple applications lodged by the same person in more than one state, applicants who expressed only one or two preference and the rate at which unsuccessful applicants would have been likely to reject an offer if they had received one. This produces a more realistic estimate of unmet demand than simply using the number of unsuccessful applicants. The current method of estimation was introduced in 2005 by the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee (now UA) in consultation with higher education sector stakeholders. Historical data was revised but the estimates for

2001 and 2002 was calculated slightly differently from those for 2003 to 2004 due to restrictions with the older data sets.

**Unsuccessful applicant:** An unsuccessful applicant is an applicant with at least one valid preference who did not receive an offer of a place.

**Vocational Education and Training:** Vocational Education and Training (VET) provides skills and knowledge for work through a national system of registered training organisations, provided by a network of industry, public and private training providers that work together to provide nationally consistent training across Australia. Registered VET training organisations are listed on [Training.gov.au](http://Training.gov.au).

## *Abbreviations*

**ACTAC:** Australasian Conference of Tertiary Admissions Centres

**ATAR:** Australian Tertiary Admission Rank

**ASCED:** Australian Standard Classification of Education

**ATSI:** Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander

**CD:** Collection district

**COAG:** Council of Australian Governments

**CSP:** Commonwealth supported place

**DEEWR:** Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

**ENTER:** Equivalent National Tertiary Entrance Rank

**FoE:** Field of education

**HECS:** Higher Education Contribution Scheme

**HELP:** Higher Education Loan Program

**HEPPP:** Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program

**HESC:** Higher education statistics collection

**IEO:** Index of Education and Occupation

**IRUA:** Innovative Research Universities

**ITI:** Interstate transfer index

**LSAY:** Longitudinal Survey of Australian Youth

**MCEETYA:** Ministerial Council on Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs

**OP:** Overall Position

**QTAC:** Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre

**SEIFA:** Socio-Economic Index for Areas

**SES:** Socioeconomic status

**TAC:** Tertiary Admissions Centre

**TAFE:** Technical and Further Education

**TER:** Tertiary entrance rank

**TES:** Tertiary entrance score

**TISC:** Tertiary Institutions Service Centre

**UA:** Universities Australia

**VET:** Vocational education and training

**VTAC:** Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre

## Appendix 3 - References

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