

## Summary of the 2010 Higher Education Student Statistics

### Student numbers

1. In 2010 there were 1 192 657 domestic and international students enrolled at higher education providers (HEPs), an increase of 5.1 per cent from 2009.
2. There were 857 384 domestic students in 2010 (71.9 per cent of all students) an increase of 5.3 per cent from 2009. Overseas student enrolments increased 4.5 per cent from 2009 to 335 273 in 2010.
3. Postgraduate students increased 4.1 per cent to 320 455 while undergraduate students increased 5.4 per cent to 833 767.
4. More than half of all students enrolled were female (55.6 per cent).
5. More than two-thirds of students (70.3 per cent) were studying full-time.
6. Over ninety per cent of students were enrolled at public universities (93.2 per cent). Public university enrolments increased 5.0 per cent in 2010 (1 111 352 students in 2010, up from 1 058 399 students in 2009), while private provider enrolments increased 6.3 per cent (81 305 students at 87 providers in 2010, up from 76 467 students at 77 providers in 2009).

### Commencing student numbers

7. Commencements provide an early indicator of growth and decline.
8. The total number of commencing student enrolments increased 3.7 per cent to 487 917 in 2010. Domestic commencements accounted for 68.9 per cent of all commencements in 2010 an increase of 6.5 per cent from 2009, while overseas commencements decreased 2.0 per cent in 2010 to 151 546 students.
9. Commencing students in enabling courses<sup>1</sup> increased nearly 20 per cent over 2009 (12 663 to 15 181), while commencements in non-award courses<sup>2</sup> declined (down 1.6 per cent to 19 151). Commencements in postgraduate courses increased marginally (0.3 per cent) to 148 873, while undergraduate commencements increased 5.1 per cent to 304 712.
10. More than half of all commencing students were female (56.2 per cent).

### Indigenous student numbers

11. Students who self identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander comprised 0.9 per cent of all enrolments in 2010 (up 6.0 per cent to 11 088 students) and 1.0 per cent of commencements (up 4.9 per cent to 5 068).
12. Increases in Indigenous student numbers were recorded across all broad fields of education except *Education; Food, Hospitality and Personal Services*; and *Mixed Field Programs*<sup>3</sup>. The largest increase was in *Information Technology* (up 24.3 per cent to 128 students); and *Natural and Physical Sciences* (up 19.6 per cent to 482 students).
13. The main fields of education in which Indigenous students were enrolled were *Society and Culture* (3 623 students, or 32.7 per cent of all Indigenous students); followed by *Health* (2 119 students or 19.1 per cent); and *Education* (1 989 students or 17.9 per cent). Indigenous student enrolments in *Education* decreased 1.4 per cent compared with 2009, while commencements decreased 13.3 per cent (752 students in 2010 compared to 867 in 2009).

### National Priority Areas and courses of special interest

14. The number of students commencing in Priority Area courses in 2010 increased in courses for initial registration as nurses (up 9.2 per cent to 16 628 students); in courses providing initial teacher training (up 8.9 per cent to 28 640 students); courses in clinical psychology (up 6.1 per cent to 728 students); and courses leading to registration as a veterinary practitioner (up 5.1 per cent to 493 students).
15. In 2010, there was a large decrease in commencing students undertaking courses leading to registration as a dental practitioner (down 20.5 per cent to 505 students) and a marginal decrease in commencements in courses leading to provisional registration as a medical practitioner (down 0.5 per cent to 3 762 students).

<sup>1</sup> A course of instruction that enables a person to undertake a course leading to a higher education award. Enabling courses do not include a course leading to a higher education award or any course that the Minister determines is not an enabling course under the ACT HESA Schedule 1.

<sup>2</sup> A program of study which does not lead to an award and which comprises a unit or units of study which: is a unit or units of study from an award course or courses at the higher education provider; and is able to be counted as a credit towards some award course at the higher education provider by all students who complete the unit or units of study.

<sup>3</sup> Mixed Field Programs provide general and personal development education.

## Regional and remote<sup>4</sup>

16. Commencing students<sup>5</sup> in regional areas increased 11.0 per cent from 2009 (from 57 163 to 63 461 students) while commencing students<sup>5</sup> in remote areas decreased 3.5 per cent to 3 669 students.

## Field of Education

17. Increases in the number of commencing students were recorded across most broad fields of education, the largest being in *Mixed Field Programs* (up 14.0 per cent to 6 823 students); *Health* (up 8.0 per cent to 63 527); and *Society and Culture* (up 7.9 per cent to 101 809). *Food, Hospitality and Personal Services* recorded a 17.1 per cent decrease in commencements to 637 students, followed by *Information Technology* which decreased 5.1 per cent to 19 526 commencements.
18. *Management and Commerce* comprised over half of all overseas enrolments (173 643 students out of 335 273) as well as commencements (76 992 out of 151 546). The largest increase in commencing overseas students was in *Mixed Field Programs* (up 81.1 per cent to 516 new overseas students); while *Agriculture, Environmental and Related Studies* increased 12.1 per cent to 1 278 students. *Food, Hospitality and Personal Services* recorded a 17.4 per cent decrease in overseas student commencements (from 701 students in 2009 to 579 in 2010). *Information Technology* also had a drop in overseas commencements, decreasing from 12 243 students in 2009 to 10 822 in 2010 (11.6 per cent decrease).

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<sup>4</sup> Regional and remote categories are derived from MCEETYA classifications.

<sup>5</sup> Excludes overseas students and domestic students where permanent home address is overseas.