

## **Attachment A - Summary of the 2007 Student Statistics**

- For 2007, the number of students reported by Private Providers has increased sharply. However, this increase does not reflect a real increase in student numbers at Private Providers but is due to two factors. From 2007 onwards, all accredited Private Providers are required to report on all of their students—not just those receiving FEE-HELP, as was previously the requirement in 2005 and 2006. In addition, the number of accredited Private Providers continues to increase, resulting in the total number of Higher Education Providers increasing from 92 in 2006 to 105 in 2007.
- For these reasons, the attached analysis of changes between 2006 and 2007 includes a separate discussion for Public Universities (Table A). The analysis for Public Universities provides a more accurate measure of changes in student enrolments between the two years than comparisons which include Private Provider numbers. Public Universities represented 976,786 students, 94.8% of the higher education student population for 2007. Private Providers and Other Higher Education Providers reported 53,060 students, 5.2 % of the higher education student population.

### **Student numbers:**

- The total number of students reached 1,029,846 in 2007, having increased by 4.7% from 984,061 in 2006. The number of students undertaking study with Public Universities increased by 2.1%, from 956,515 in 2006 to 976,786 in 2007.
- In 2007, 73.5% of reported students were domestic students and the remaining 26.5% were overseas students. The number of domestic students in 2007 was 756,747, up 3.2% from 733,267 in 2006. The number of overseas students increased by 8.9% from 250,794 to 273,099 over the same period.
- The number of domestic students undertaking study with Public Universities increased by 1.7%, from 709,948 in 2006 to 722,372 in 2007. The number of overseas students increased by 3.2%, from 246,567 in 2006 to 254,414 in 2007.

### **Commencing student numbers:**

- The number of commencing students in 2007 was 408,334, having increased by 7.0% from 381,699 in 2006. The number of commencing students undertaking study with Public Universities increased by 3.3% from 367,094 in 2006 to 379,299 in 2007.
- Of the 408,334 commencing students in 2007, 69.0% were domestic students and 31.0% were overseas students.
- The number of commencing domestic students increased by 4.2% from 270,236 in 2006 to 281,625 in 2007. The number of commencing overseas students increased by 13.7% from 111,463 to 126,709 over the same period. The number of commencing domestic students undertaking study with Public Universities increased by 2.4% from 258,302 in 2006 to 264,575 in 2007, while commencing overseas student numbers increased by 5.5% across the same period (from 108,792 to 114,724).
- Males represented 44.4% (181,109) of all commencing students in 2007, while 55.6% were females (227,225).

### **Indigenous student numbers:**

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students represented less than one percent (0.9%) (9,370) of all students in 2007. The number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students reported by Public Universities increased by 5.4% from 8,739 in 2006 to 9,215 in 2007. The number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students commencing at Public Universities increased by 4.2% from 3,792 to 3,953 for the same period.

### **National Priority Areas and medicine:**

- The number of students commencing courses leading to Provisional Registration as a Medical Practitioner increased substantially by 21.8%, from 2,565 in 2006 to 3,124 in 2007. There were also increases in the number of students commencing courses leading to Initial Registration as Nurses (up 11.6%, from 12,036 in 2006 to 13,434 in 2007), and in the number of students commencing courses providing Initial Teacher Training (up 4.0% from 25,155 to 26,159).
- Over the same period, the number of commencing students at Public Universities undertaking courses leading to Provisional Registration as a Medical Practitioner increased substantially by 23.0% (from 2,396 to 2,946). Students commencing in courses leading to Initial Registration as Nurses also increased by 11.2% (from 11,764 to 13,078), while students commencing in courses providing Initial Teacher Training increased by 3.9% (from 24,022 to 24,948).

### **Field of Education:**

- A comparison of commencing students at Public Universities by broad field of education shows strong increases between 2006 and 2007 in Health (up 9.9%), Engineering and Related Technologies (up 8.7%), and Architecture and Building (up 8.3%). There were also modest increases in the fields of Management and Commerce (up 4.4%), Agriculture, Environmental and Related Studies (up 3.8%), Natural and Physical Sciences (up 3.1%), Creative Arts (2.6%) and Society and Culture (0.7%). The number of commencing students in the field of Information Technology declined by 4.0%, a much smaller decrease than in the period between 2004 and 2006 when the decreases were between 10 and 20%. There was also a small decrease in the number of students commencing courses in Education (down 0.4%).
- The substantial increase in the number of commencements in the field of Engineering and Related Technologies is a change from previous years—between 2005 and 2006 there was a small increase of 1.4% in the number of commencements while between 2003 and 2005 the numbers declined each year. The increase in 2007 is due partly to an extra 510 Commonwealth supported places offered in 2007. An extra 560 places will be offered in 2008.