

**AV-CC**

**Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee**

*the council of Australia's university presidents*

(A.C.N. 008 502 930)

**SURVEY OF APPLICANTS FOR UNDERGRADUATE  
HIGHER EDUCATION COURSES, 2003**

**Executive Summary**

All State Admission Centres participated in the 2003 Survey of Applicants for higher education courses and as in the past surveys the application data submission excludes those lodged directly with universities.

The definition of applicant developed jointly by the AVCC and the Department of Education, Science and Training, has been adopted in the Survey since 2001. The broad range of rejection factors of 30% to 50%, used in the discount process to estimate the level of unmet demand in parallel to the State specific rejection rates for a number of years, has been discontinued, as it is no longer up-to-date.

Not all applications lodged at the Admission Centres are considered eligible. The scope of the survey analysis is only concerned with domestic eligible applicants.

**Key Features**

The number of eligible applicants not receiving an offer in 2003 is 63,118. This is 17% higher than 2002 (or 9,193 applicants more than in 2002). South Australia reported the highest percentage increase (46% or 888 unsuccessful applicants) over 2002, with Queensland having the highest number increase (2,806). Mature age applicants, while only 10% of all applicants, account for 32% of unsuccessful applicants in 2003.

In ratio or relative terms, there were 28 applicants not receiving an offer for every 100 eligible applicants in 2003, while there were 24 per 100 in 2002. This equals a 14% increase in 'unmet demand' between 2002 and 2003. The ratio removes the volatility of annual changes in the number of applications and offers. This year's movement, whether in number or ratio terms, confirms the surging trend of unsuccessful applicants.

In 2003, the total number of eligible applicants is 229,427, 3% (or 6,700 applicants) higher than in 2002, with Western Australia recorded the highest % increase (9% or 1,607 applications). Both NSW-ACT and Vic registered a 3% increase, with 2,131 and 1,864 more applicants respectively than in 2002. While only a 1.7% increase (an additional 2,625 applicants) is reported for applicants aged 20 and under, those aged over 20 years (the mature age cohort) registered a sizeable 6% increase (an additional 4,074 applicants) over 2002. The mature age group accounts for 31% of the total applicants in 2003, marginally higher than its proportion in 2002.

**Table 1** below sets out the “Total eligible applicants and eligible applicants not receiving an offer by State for 2002 and 2003”, while **Table 2** provides the “Total eligible applicants and eligible applicants not receiving an offer by gender, age and admission qualification” for the same period.

**Table 1: Total eligible applicants and eligible applicants not receiving an offer by State, 2002-2003**

State	Total eligible applicants				Eligible applicants not receiving offers			
	2002 (No.)	2003 (No.)	Change (No.)	Change (%)	2002 (No.)	2003 (No.)	Change (No.)	Change (%)
New South Wales/ACT	69336	71467	2131	3.1	15156	17670	2514	16.6
Victoria	59785	61649	1864	3.1	21632	23531	1899	8.8
Queensland	54645	55350	705	1.3	11956	14762	2806	23.5
South Australia	15359	15577	218	1.4	1930	2818	888	46.0
Western Australia	17139	18746	1607	9.4	2436	3366	930	38.2
Tasmania	6464	6638	174	2.7	815	971	156	19.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>222728</b>	<b>229427</b>	<b>6699</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>53925</b>	<b>63118</b>	<b>9193</b>	<b>17.0</b>

**Table 2: Total eligible applicants and unsuccessful eligible applicants by gender, age and qualification, 2002-2003**

Category	Total Eligible Applicants				Total Unsuccessful Eligible Applicants			
	2002		2003		2002		2003	
	Total Eligible (No.)	As % of Total Apps.	Total Eligible (No.)	As % of Total Apps.	Total Unsuccessful (No.)	As % of Eligible Apps. in Category	Total Unsuccessful (No.)	As % of Eligible Apps. in Category
<b>20 years and under</b>								
Year 12 Home-State								
- previous year	103004	46.2	102903	44.9	20476	19.9	23667	23.0
- more than 1 year ago	14031	6.3	14928	6.5	2821	20.1	3239	21.7
Sub-total	117035	52.5	117831	51.4	23297	19.9	26906	22.8
Year 12 Interstate	12167	5.5	13450	5.9	3786	31.1	4526	33.7
Other	26384	11.8	26930	11.7	7940	30.1	9094	33.8
Sub-total	155586	69.9	158211	69.0	35023	22.5	40526	25.6
<b>Over 20 years</b>								
All year 12	15050	6.8	15975	7.0	4334	28.8	4943	30.9
Other	52092	23.4	55241	24.1	14567	28.0	17649	31.9
Sub-total	67142	30.1	71216	31.0	18901	28.2	22592	31.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>222728</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>229427</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>53924</b>	<b>24.2</b>	<b>63118</b>	<b>27.5</b>

It should be noted that not all applicants are considered eligible. The total number of applications lodged through the Admission Centres in 2003 is 242,975, of which 229,427 are considered eligible. Most tables embedded in this Survey Report are focused on domestic eligible applicants. Further details on eligibility are provided in the Survey Report and Appendices B.

## Field of Study

The Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED) developed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has been used since 2001 to report applicants against their intended field of education.

In 2003, the fields with the highest level of unsuccessful eligible applicants are Medical Studies (78), (i.e.: for 100 eligible applicants indicating their first or second preference as Medical Studies, 78 did not receive an offer), followed by Veterinary Studies (77.5), Dental Studies (62), Law (43), Education (41), Architecture (39) and Nursing (37).

Increasing demand in several broad fields of education were reported for 2003, led by Nursing (increase of 1,500 over 2002), then Health - Other (1,182) and Education (693). On the other hand, declining demand is reported in Information Technology (2,970 fewer than in 2002), following by Management/Commerce (1,201), Natural & Physical Science (172) and Engineering (120).

**Table 3**, shows eligible applicants and eligible applicants not receiving an offer by selected fields of education from 2002 to 2003. (A negative number of applicants not receiving an offer is a result of offers made to applicants based on preference(s) other than their first or second). In number terms, the annual increase is highest for those intended to study in Society/Culture/Creative Arts, followed by Nursing, Education and Health – Other.

**Table 3: Total eligible applicants and eligible applicants not receiving an offer by selected fields of education, 2002-2003**

Broad Field of Education	Eligible applicants					
	2002			2003		
	Total	Not receiving offer		Total	Not receiving offer	
	No.	%	No.	%		
Agriculture	4,894	-62	-1.3	5,113	9	0.1
Architecture	5,791	1,843	31.8	6,289	2,412	38.8
Society/Culture/Creative Art	58,836	11,863	20.2	60,752	14,707	24.8
Management/Commerce	37,552	8,736	23.3	37,218	9,321	25.6
Education	22,575	7,787	34.5	24,160	9,610	40.9
Engineering	12,274	1,398	11.4	12,335	1,683	13.8
Dental Studies	982	573	58.4	1,095	679	62.0
Nursing	11,314	2,934	25.9	13,313	4,861	36.8
Medical Studies	6,834	5,283	77.3	7,733	5,952	78.0
Health Other	17,510	5,002	28.6	18,980	6,218	32.9
Law	12,863	5,069	39.4	13,266	5,646	43.1
Justice/Law Enforcement	1,522	250	16.4	1,716	581	35.1
Natural & Physical Science	15,140	-1,209	-8.0	15,381	-1,306	-8.8
Information Technology	13,030	3,246	24.9	10,324	1,387	13.7
Veterinary Studies	1,611	1,212	75.2	1,752	1,358	77.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>222,728</b>	<b>53,925</b>	<b>24.2</b>	<b>229,427</b>	<b>63,118</b>	<b>27.5</b>

## Applying Discount Factors for Analysis

The analysis above reflects the actual number of applications processed by each State Admission Centre. However, there has always been a small degree of double counting of applicants, due to applications lodged at more than one Admission Centre. In addition, the rejection of offers by some could result in offers to other applicants. The total number of

unsuccessful eligible applicants, after discounted for these factors, is estimated to be in the range of 18,700 to 25,700, a 25% increase over 2002.

The overall rejection rates as reported by each State Admission Centre in 2003, used in deriving the discounted figures, are 14% for high UAI applicants and 24% for low UAI applicants (see **Table 4** below). Applicants at the high end are defined as those with UAIs in the 90s while applicants at the low end are those with UAIs in the 50s or below. The rejection rate varies significantly amongst States, in that 7% was reported for the applicants at the high end in Victoria, compared with 19% for NSW-ACT.

**Table 4: Rejection Rate of Offers as Advised by Admissions Centres and Resultant Range for Unsuccessful Applicants, 2003**

State	Rejection Rate of Offers %	Unsuccessful Applicants Range (after discounting)	Unsuccessful applicants as % of eligible applicants %
New South Wales/ACT	19 - 31	5900 - 7900	8.3 - 11.1
Victoria	7 - 43	3300 - 7300	5.4 - 11.8
Queensland	15 - 10	6800 - 7100	12.3 - 12.8
South Australia	9 - 8	1300 - 1400	8.3 - 9.0
Western Australia	20 - 25	1300 - 1600	6.9 - 8.5
Tasmania	15 - 25	200 - 300	3.0 - 4.5
<b>Total (a)</b>	<b>14 - 24</b>	<b>18700 - 25700</b>	<b>8.2 - 11.2</b>

(a) Due to rounding, State ranges do not add to total ranges.

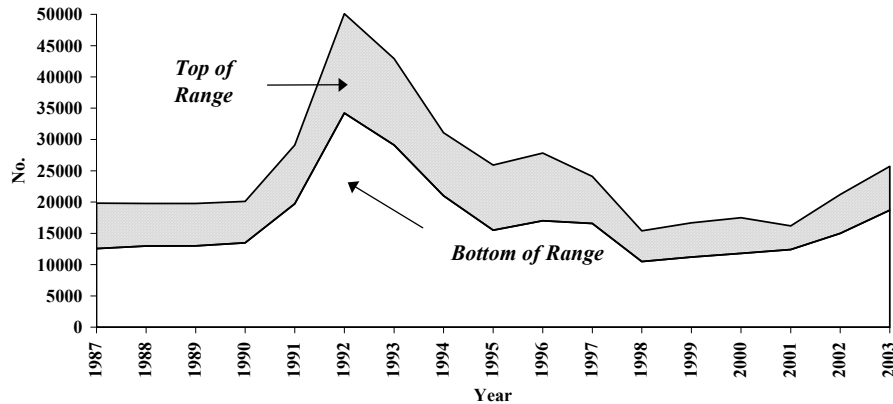
### Long-term trend on the yearly movement of applicants not receiving offers using discounted figures

**Figure 1** shows the trend of unsuccessful applicants since 1987, with data derived using rejection rates provided by individual Admission Centres

The graph reveals that the number of unsuccessful applicants remained stable between 1987 and 1990, as additional places were funded to meet growing demand. High levels of demand in the early 1990s however exceed growth in available places causing a substantial increase in unmet demand.

The next major movement was recorded from 1996 when demand for university places fell significantly. The top range of the discounted estimates of unsuccessful applicants for 2003 confirms a positive upward trend of the level of demand. .

**Figure 1: Estimated range of Discounted Unsuccessful Applicants, 1987 to 2003**



### **Factors affecting future level of school leaver applicants**

The Year 12 school population (being the main feeder group to universities) for 2002 was 199,754, representing a national increase of 6.9% over 2001. This is about 5.7% higher than the annual growth reported for the previous year.

The population projections released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) in 1999 reveal that, following a decline from 1992 to 1996, the 17-19 year age group has increased since 1997. The projected series was produced with the assumptions of almost zero growth of population and not a high level of migration.

More extensive description of the survey methodology and this year's survey outcomes are provided in the Survey Report. A set of time series table (in Excel format) showing detailed attributes of the Survey is set out in **Appendix D** of the Survey Report.

# REPORT ON SURVEY OF APPLICANTS FOR UNDERGRADUATE HIGHER EDUCATION COURSES, 2003

## Introduction

The Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee has conducted an annual survey of applications for undergraduate courses in Australian universities since 1985. The scope of the survey relates to undergraduate courses only (Diploma, Advanced Diploma, Associate degrees and Bachelor degrees) and excludes overseas students, applications submitted directly to universities and those via Open Learning Australia. The data is provided by all State tertiary admissions centres, the University of Tasmania and the Northern Territory Universities, covering all rounds of offers made by the end of March each year to domestic applicants. This represents the majority of consolidated offers made for an academic year.

The main objective of the survey is to quantify the number of domestic applicants for higher education places, that judged eligible by the State Tertiary Admission Centres fail to gain an acceptable offer due to restrictions on the number of places.

This survey differs significantly from the AVCC's Progressive Collection of Applications and Offers, run monthly between November and February each year, in that all applications (eligible or not) are counted, and it included both international and domestic applicants. Furthermore, the offer information is not necessarily consolidated at the respective stage.

## Methodology

The 2003 survey, as in previous years, gathered the aggregate information by admission qualification, age, gender and by broad field of education to which applicants sought entry to undergraduate courses. Identical attributes were also sought on those applicants who were already enrolled in a higher education course and seeking admission to a different course through the State Tertiary Admissions Centres.

In association with the Department of Education, Science and Training, a common definition of applicant has been used to maintain consistency of reporting by the Admission Centres. Accordingly, in order to be considered in this survey, applicants must, at the minimum, specify a university undergraduate course as either their first or second preference.

As the applicants residing in the Australian Capital Territory and New South Wales lodge their application in the same admission centre, the survey data for the Australian Capital Territory and New South Wales are treated as a single region.

The Survey methodology applies a number of discounting principles which take into the account of a range of factors, such as the number of less qualified applicants, the number of interstate applicants, the number of eligible applicants not receiving an offer according to their first or second preferences, and the actual rate of rejection of offers by eligible applicants. The discounting process is to provide what is considered a realistic estimate of applicants who are unable to obtain an undergraduate place in a particular year. While only minor adjustment is needed for the mature age applicants, **the discounting methodology has been primarily designed for the school leaver cohort.** Further details of the discounting factors and how they are applied to the actual number of applications processed by the State Admission Centres are set out in the **Appendix A** of this report.

The Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) supports the principles underpinning the general methodology and the discounting process of the survey.

## Demand for Undergraduate Places

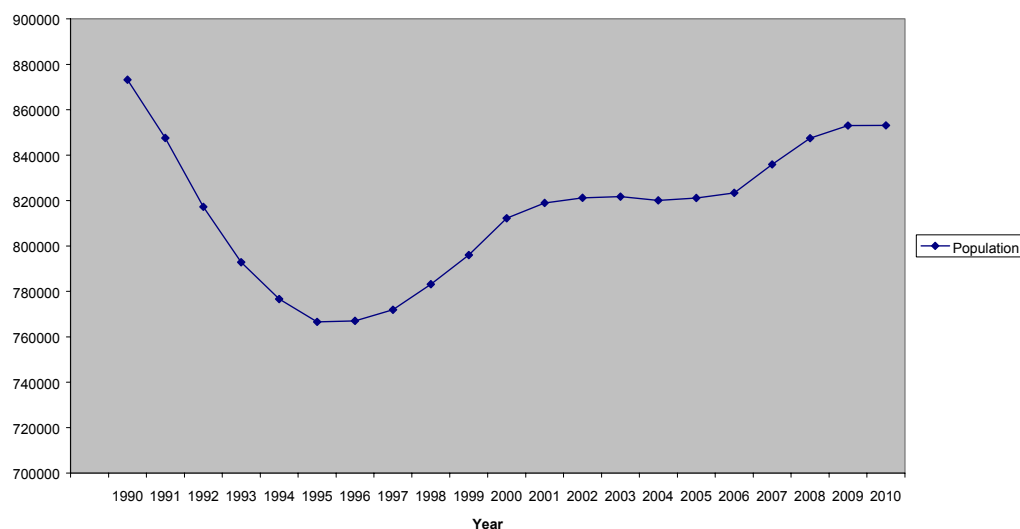
Tables 1 to 9 of this Report provide the basis for analysing demand for undergraduate places (and the proportion of unsuccessful applicants), particularly split by two age groups, those over twenty years of age and those aged twenty years and under.

In addition, the characteristics of the “school leaver applicants” are particularly relevant in projecting future demand for higher education places, based on the likely future population size for this group and retention of year 7/8 to the final year of school.

The “Other” category of applicants loosely referred to as mature age group, comprises applicants with many and varied qualifications for entry to higher education.

The population projections released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in 1999 are summarised in **Figure 1** below. Following a decline from 1992 to 1996, the 17-19 year age group began to increase from 1997. A revised projection is expected to be released by the ABS later this year.

**Figure 1: Projection of the 17-19 Age Group, 1990 to 2010**



Looking at **Table 1** below, the total Year 12 school population (the main feeder group for universities) for year 2002 was 199,754, representing an increase of 6.9% over 2001. This is 5.7% higher than the annual increase recorded in 2001.

**Table 1: Year 12 Population by State, 1990 to 2002**

State	Year 12 Population (No.)													Change	
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2002 - 2001	
														(No.)	(%)
New South Wales	51536	53309	57809	57738	56550	54857	53742	53532	54955	56266	56844	56988	59945	2957	5.2
Victoria	45182	50632	52051	49127	46754	45488	45187	45486	45364	46165	46503	48304	50351	2047	4.2
Queensland	33600	35962	37001	36016	34681	33309	33877	34676	36363	38112	39824	39468	41506	2038	5.2
South Australia	14978	16756	17895	16068	14714	12229	11594	11813	12450	13043	12972	13352	15187	1835	13.7
Western Australia	15284	16669	17263	18097	17699	17073	17293	17779	18263	18582	19181	19545	20730	1185	6.1
Tasmania	3477	3938	4326	4199	3985	4058	3716	4050	4488	4788	4961	4929	6350	1421	28.8
ACT	4244	4597	4806	4479	4399	4248	4277	4310	4270	4365	4338	4279	4297	18	0.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>168301</b>	<b>181863</b>	<b>191151</b>	<b>185724</b>	<b>178782</b>	<b>171262</b>	<b>169686</b>	<b>171646</b>	<b>176153</b>	<b>181321</b>	<b>184623</b>	<b>186865</b>	<b>199754</b>	<b>12889</b>	<b>6.9</b>

**Note:** Year 12 population in the Northern Territory not included in Table 1;

**Source:** Australian Bureau of Statistics, Schools, Australia.

## Eligible Applicants, 2003

### Eligibility is defined as follows:

**Year 12:** those students who successfully obtain a sufficiently high aggregate University Admission Index (UAI) to qualify for admission to a higher education institution in the State for which admission is sought, either on a full-time or part-time basis. Each State Admission Centre determines the actual minimum admission score, taking into account of member universities' cut-off level. Home State (applicants) refers to those whose Year 12 qualification was obtained in the same State as the Admission Centre, while Interstate refers to those applying to Centres other than their Home State.

**Other:** all other applicants.

In recognition of the different admission processes and entry criteria in each State, the Survey has used the application data based on each Admission Centre's criteria for applying the definition of 'eligibility' used in the survey. The definition of eligible student set out in **Appendix A** of the Survey Report serves as a conceptual guidelines for Admission Centres while the criteria measured in terms of UAIs for each Admission Centre, where available, is set out in **Appendix B**.

It is recognized that the overall criteria of eligibility measured in terms of UAI differs from State to State and is perfectly acceptable in view of the diverse range of cut-off scores amongst universities.

**Table 2: Eligible Applicants by qualification and State, 2002-2003**

TOTAL ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS	2002								2003							
	NSW/						Total		NSW/						Total	
	ACT	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	No.	%	ACT	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	No.	%
Category																
20 years and under																
Year 12 Home-State previous year	32842	32582	20215	7398	8051	1916	103004	46.2	33269	32334	19917	7281	8132	1970	102903	44.9
- more than 1 year ago	6089	2249	1581	1195	2609	308	14031	6.3	6373	2204	1748	1304	2915	384	14928	6.5
Sub-total	38931	34831	21796	8593	10660	2224	117035	52.5	39642	34538	21665	8585	11047	2354	117831	51.4
Year 12 Interstate	2961	2939	3454	1483	974	356	12167	5.5	3419	3324	3556	1607	1056	488	13450	5.9
Other	7508	7101	9218	1837	220	500	26384	11.8	7825	7731	8272	1971	239	892	26930	11.7
Sub-total	10469	10040	12672	3320	1194	856	38551	17.3	11244	11055	11828	3578	1295	1380	40380	17.6
Over 20 years																
All year 12	5877	2015	2848	844	3320	146	15050	6.8	5981	2146	2812	807	4130	99	15975	7.0
Other	14059	12899	17329	2602	1965	3238	52092	23.4	14600	13910	19045	2607	2274	2805	55241	24.1
Sub-total	19936	14914	20177	3446	5285	3384	67142	30.1	20581	16056	21857	3414	6404	2904	71216	31.0
Total	69336	59785	54645	15359	17139	6464	222728	100.0	71467	61649	55350	15577	18746	6638	229427	100.0

- **The total number of eligible applicants** for 2003 was 229,427, a 3% increase over 2002.
- **Female applicants** comprise 58% of the total eligible applicants, similar to 2002.
- **State composition** – 31.1% of eligible applicants were from New South Wales-ACT, 27% from Victoria and 24% from Queensland, similar to 2002.
- **Qualification-age composition** – just over half of all eligible applicants (51.4%) in 2003 were Year 12 Home-State (previous year + more than 1 year) students aged 20 years and under. As in 2002, about one third of the total eligible applicants (31%) were aged over 20 years, of which (78%) applied on the basis of admission other than Year 12 results.

The gross level of eligible applicants and the number of eligible applicants not receiving an offer for an undergraduate place in 2002 and 2003 are shown by State (**Table 2A**) and by age/qualification category (**Table 2B**) respectively. The discount data is provided in the latter part of the Report.

**Table 2A: Total Eligible Applicants and Eligible Applicants not Receiving an Offer by State, 2002-2003**

State	Total eligible applicants				Eligible applicants not receiving offers			
	2002 (No.)	2003 (No.)	Change (No.)	Change (%)	2002 (No.)	2003 (No.)	Change (No.)	Change (%)
New South Wales/ACT	69336	71467	2131	3.1	15156	17670	2514	16.6
Victoria	59785	61649	1864	3.1	21632	23531	1899	8.8
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Tasmania	6464	6638	174	2.7	815	971	156	19.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>222728</b>	<b>229427</b>	<b>6699</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>53925</b>	<b>63118</b>	<b>9193</b>	<b>17.0</b>

**Table 2B: Total Eligible Applicants and Total Unsuccessful Eligible Applicants by Age and Qualification, 2002-2003**

Category	Total Eligible Applicants				Total Unsuccessful Eligible Applicants			
	2002		2003		2002		2003	
	Total Eligible (No.)	As % of Total Apps.	Total Eligible (No.)	As % of Total Apps.	Total Unsuccessful (No.)	As % of Eligible Apps. in Category	Total Unsuccessful (No.)	As % of Eligible Apps. in Category
<b>20 years and under</b>								
Year 12 Home-State - previous year	103004	46.2	102903	44.9	20476	19.9	23667	23.0
- more than 1 year ago	14031	6.3	14928	6.5	2821	20.1	3239	21.7
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Sub-total	155586	69.9	158211	69.0	35023	22.5	40526	25.6
<b>Over 20 years</b>								
All year 12	15050	6.8	15975	7.0	4334	28.8	4943	30.9
Other	52092	23.4	55241	24.1	14567	28.0	17649	31.9
Sub-total	67142	30.1	71216	31.0	18901	28.2	22592	31.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>222728</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>229427</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>53924</b>	<b>24.2</b>	<b>63118</b>	<b>27.5</b>

### Eligible Applicants Unable to Obtain an Undergraduate Place, 2003

The number of eligible applicants unable to obtain an undergraduate place in 2002 and 2003 are set out in **Tables 2A, 2B and 2C**. These tables provide various attributes of the number of unsuccessful applicants processed by the State Admission Centres and are not adjusted to remove duplication and other factors that overstate the level of unsuccessful eligible applicants. The key attributes for this year's applicants are:

total number of eligible applicants	229,427
total number of offers made	166,309
gross number of eligible applicants not receiving an offer	63,118

- Without applying the discount factors, there were 63,118 unsuccessful eligible applicants recorded in 2003, some 17% higher than 2002.
- 28% of total eligible applicants were unsuccessful in 2003, 4% more than in 2002 (24%).
- As in past years, male eligible applicants not receiving an offer registered a higher percentage increase (28.4%) when compared to female applicants (26.9%).
- The largest share of total eligible applicants not receiving an offer was in Victoria, 37%, followed by New South Wales-ACT (28%), Queensland (23%), Western Australia (5%), South Australia (4%) and Tasmania (2%).
- 26,906 (or 42.6%) of the total eligible applicants not receiving an offer were from the Year 12 Home-State group.
- As in prior years, applicants aged over 20 years, while only represents 9.8% of the total applicants, account for 36% of unsuccessful applicants in 2003.

**Table 2C: Eligible Applicants Not Receiving an Offer by Qualification and State, 2002-2003**

TOTAL ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS NOT RECEIVING AN OFFER																	
Category	2002								2003								
	NSW/AC	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	Total	Total	NSW/AC	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	Total	Total	
	No.	No.					No.	% share	No.	No.					No.	% share	
20 years and under																	
Year 12 Home-State																	
- previous year	5456	9721	3885	458	912	44	20476	38.0	6292	10241	4812	921	1360	41	23667	37.5	
- more than 1 year ago	1083	1080	329	50	280	0	2822	5.2	1207	1052	478	112	384	6	3239	5.1	
Sub-total	6539	10801	4214	508	1192	44	23298	43.2	7499	11293	5290	1033	1744	47	26906	42.6	
Year 12 Interstate	719	825	1150	474	454	164	3786	7.0	991	1051	1173	579	507	225	4526	7.2	
Other	2186	3043	2172	384	49	106	7940	14.7	2617	3315	2338	523	76	225	9094	14.4	
Sub-total	2905	3868	3322	858	503	270	11726	21.7	3608	4366	3511	1102	583	450	13620	21.6	
Over 20 years																	
All year 12	1871	1191	753	75	437	7	4334	8.0	2007	1341	940	112	537	6	4943	7.8	
Other	3841	5772	3667	489	304	494	14567	27.0	4556	6531	5021	571	502	468	17649	28.0	
Sub-total	5712	6963	4420	564	741	501	18901	35.1	6563	7872	5961	683	1039	474	22592	35.8	
<b>Total</b>	<b>15156</b>	<b>21632</b>	<b>11956</b>	<b>1930</b>	<b>2436</b>	<b>815</b>	<b>53925</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>17670</b>	<b>23531</b>	<b>14762</b>	<b>2818</b>	<b>3366</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>63118</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

**Table 3: Home State Eligible Applicants Direct from Year 12 (aged 20 years and under) Not Receiving an Offer, 2002-2003**

State	Home State eligible applicants direct from Year 12 (aged 20 years and under) not receiving an offer and as % of previous year's Year 12 population			
	2002		2003	
	No.	%	No.	%
New South Wales/ACT	5456	9.0	6292	10.4
Victoria	9721	21.1	10241	22.2
Queensland	3885	10.2	4812	12.6
South Australia	458	3.5	921	7.1
Western Australia	912	4.9	1360	7.3
Tasmania	44	0.9	41	0.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>20476</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>23667</b>	<b>13.1</b>

Table 3 shows that the percentage of the Home State unsuccessful eligible applicants in 2003 over the previous year's Year 12 population is marginally higher, up from 11% to 13%.

**Demand for Undergraduate Places by Selected Field of Education (first or second preference)**

Tables 4 and 5 show the total number of eligible applicants and Home State eligible applicants direct from Year 12 aged 20 years and under, by selected field of education based on their first or second preference for an undergraduate course. The fields of education adopted since 2001 are consistent with the ABS's Australian Standard Classification on Education and Discipline (ASCED) and the DEST Higher Education Data Collections.

Increasing demand in several fields of education were reported for 2003, led by Nursing (an increase of 1,500 over 2002), followed by Health - Other (1,182) and Education (693). On the other hand, declining demand is reported in Information Technology (2,970 fewer than 2002), following by Management/Commerce (1,201), Natural & Physical Science (172) and Engineering (120).

In 2003, fields of education with the highest proportions of unsuccessful applicants are Medical Studies (78), (ie: for every 100 applicants indicating their first or second preference as Medical Studies, 78 did not receive an offer), followed by Veterinary Studies (77.5), Dental studies (62), Law (43), Education (41), Architecture (39) and Nursing (37).

In number terms, the annual increase of unsuccessful applicants is highest for those applying to study in Society-Culture-Creative Arts, followed by Nursing, Education and Health – Other.

**Tables 3 and 5** show applicants and unsuccessful applicants by selected field of education from 2002 and 2003. Where there is a negative number of unsuccessful applicants in the table, it is a result of offers made to applicants based on third preferences or lower.

**Table 4: Total Eligible Applicants and Eligible Applicants not Receiving an Offer, by Selected Field of Education, 2002 to 2003**

Broad Field of Education	Eligible applicants					
	2002			2003		
	Not receiving offer			Not receiving offer		
	Total	No.	%	Total	No.	%
Agriculture	4,894	-62	-1.3	5,113	9	0.1
Architecture	5,791	1,843	31.8	6,289	2,412	38.8
Society/Culture/Creative Art	58,836	11,863	20.2	60,752	14,707	24.8
Management/Commerce	37,552	8,736	23.3	37,218	9,321	25.6
Education	22,575	7,787	34.5	24,160	9,610	40.9
Engineering	12,274	1,398	11.4	12,335	1,683	13.8
Dental Studies	982	573	58.4	1,095	679	62.0
Nursing	11,314	2,934	25.9	13,313	4,861	36.8
Medical Studies	6,834	5,283	77.3	7,733	5,952	78.0
Health Other	17,510	5,002	28.6	18,980	6,218	32.9
Law	12,863	5,069	39.4	13,266	5,646	43.1
Justice/Law Enforcement	1,522	250	16.4	1,716	581	35.1
Natural & Physical Science	15,140	-1,209	-8.0	15,381	-1,306	-8.8
Information Technology	13,030	3,246	24.9	10,324	1,387	13.7
Veterinary Studies	1,611	1,212	75.2	1,752	1,358	77.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>222,728</b>	<b>53,925</b>	<b>24.2</b>	<b>229,427</b>	<b>63,118</b>	<b>27.5</b>

**Table 5: Home State Eligible Applicants (aged 20 years and under, and direct from Year 12) by Broad Field of education, 2002 to 2003**

Broad Field of Study	2002			2003		
	Total	Not receiving offer		Total	Not receiving offer	
		No.	%		No.	%
Agriculture	2062	-141	-6.8	2324	-64	-2.8
Architecture	2804	933	33.3	2960	1172	39.6
Society/Culture/Creative Art	28261	4884	17.3	28301	6122	21.6
Management/Commerce	17533	3287	18.7	16873	3517	20.8
Education	9117	3642	39.9	9458	4212	44.5
Engineering	7790	729	9.4	7736	867	11.2
Dental Studies	216	99	45.8	202	100	49.5
Nursing	3800	811	21.3	4282	1482	34.6
Medical Studies	2037	1311	64.4	2153	1380	64.1
Health Other	8150	1997	24.5	8661	2445	28.2
Law	5482	2212	40.4	5333	2235	41.9
Justice/Law Enforcement	839	266	31.7	978	526	53.8
Natural & Physical Science	8380	-1256	-15.0	8347	-1244	-14.9
Information Technology	5993	1275	21.3	4760	480	10.1
Veterinary Studies	540	427	79.1	535	437	81.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>103004</b>	<b>20476</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>102903</b>	<b>23667</b>	<b>23.0</b>

Appendix C provides a table showing the UAI/TER at quartile percentile rankings for those applicants who accepted their offer, by selected fields of education as listed in Tables 4 and 5. The purpose of the summary is to provide a broad indication of the academic strength of applicants who accepted an offer, measured by UAI/TER percentile rankings by the selected fields of education.

Table 6, shows that 4.8% of eligible applicants already enrolled in a higher education course were unsuccessful in securing an offer, but with variation amongst States (from 0.7% for WA to 5.3 for Tasmania). This cohort of applicants may inflate the gross and discounted level of applicants for university places by taking up a new place and hence releasing their previous place, but this is considered to have minimal impact.

**Table 6: Eligible Applicants Currently Enrolled in a Higher Education Course, 2003**

State	Total eligible applicants	Eligible applicants currently enrolled in a higher education course			
		Total No.	Number receiving Offer	Number not receiving Offer	Number not receiving offer as % of eligible applicants
NSW	71467	10265	6744	3521	4.9
Victoria	61649	9237	5114	4123	6.7
Queensland	55350	8490	6279	2211	4.0
South Australia	15577	2586	1838	748	4.8
Western Australia	18746	671	542	129	0.7
Tasmania	6638	1441	1088	353	5.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>229427</b>	<b>32690</b>	<b>21605</b>	<b>11085</b>	<b>4.8</b>

## Application of Discounting Factors

In determining realistic estimates of applicants not able to obtain an undergraduate place, it is necessary to discount the total gross applicant figures, taking into account of the following factors:

- less qualified applicants;
- double counting of interstate applicants;
- the number of preferences expressed by applicants; and
- the rejection rate of offers by successful applicants.

The purpose of discounting the number of unsuccessful eligible applicants is to project a different perspective of the unmet demand pattern from those transpired by the actual numbers. It is by no means to devalue the level of eligibility applied to the scope of applicants considered by the survey.

This methodology does not take into account existing university students who apply for transfer to other undergraduate courses, as it is primarily designed for the school leaver cohort. The current survey data does not allow the derivation of discounted number of unsuccessful eligible applicants by field of education.

The rejection factors, as reported by each Admission Centre, are the only factors used in the discounting process this year.

**Table 7** provides a summary of the analysis, together with each step in the discounting process, with the State specific rejection rates used separately tabulated in **Table 8** (these range from 7% for the high end of eligible applicants to 43% for the low end of eligible applicants. Applicants at the high end are defined for those eligible applicants with UAIs in the 90's while applicants at the low end are those with UAIs in the 50's or below.

The result of the discounting analysis reveals that the realistic estimate of the number of unsuccessful applicants for undergraduate higher education place is between **18,700 and 25,700** based on state specific rejection rates for 2003.

While the discounted numbers represents 30% to 41% of the total unsuccessful applicants processed by the State Admission Centres, the range represents 8% to 11% of all eligible applicants.

The diversity of the rejection rates amongst the States should be noted, for example, the rejection rates of 7% and 20% were reported for Vic and WA respectively for those at the high end (with TER/UAI in the 90s).

**Appendix B** provides details of the methodology and steps involved in applying the discounting factors.

**Table 7: Eligible Applicants not receiving an undergraduate place in higher education, by State, 2003**  
**(State specific rejection rate)**

Parameters	New South Wales		Victoria		Queensland		South Australia		Western Australia		Tasmania		Australia	
	I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II
<b>A Applicants not Receiving an Offer</b>	17670		23531		14762		2818		3366		971		63118	
Exclude:														
<b>B Y12 Home-State students in range 71-100% in final year ranking who do not receive an offer</b>	0		0		608		0		0		123		731	
<b>Sub-total</b>	17670		23531		14154		2818		3366		848		62387	
<b>C Interstate year12 applicants (aged 20 yrs &amp; under) who do not receive an offer (I - 100%, II - 80%)</b>	16679	16877	22480	22690	12981	13216	2239	2355	2859	2960	623	668	57861	58766
<b>D % of applicants with one preferences who do not receive an offer (I - 100%, II - 80%)</b>	10373	11772	8094	11074	8748	9768	1558	1782	1929	2190	312	401	31014	36987
<b>E % of applicants with two preferences who do not receive an offer (I - 50%, II - 50%)</b>	8565	9721	5727	7835	7558	8439	1369	1565	1718	1951	303	390	25240	29901
<b>F Rate of rejection of offers</b>														
State rates														
lower end	5876	6668	3272	4477	6802	7595	1259	1440	1289	1463	228	293	18725	21936
higher end	6972	7913	5329	7290	6394	7139	1246	1425	1375	1561	258	332	21573	25659
<b>Range 2003</b>	5900 <----> 7900		3300 <----> 7300		6800 <----> 7100		1300 <----> 1400		1300 <----> 1600		200 <----> 300		18700 <----> 25700	
<b>Range 2002</b>	4300 <----> 5400		3400 <----> 6200		4300 <----> 5800		800 <----> 1000		1000 <----> 1300		200 <----> 300		14000 <----> 20000	

Note: Total excludes Northern Territory.



**Table 8: Rejection Rate of Offers Advised by Admissions Centres and Resultant Range of Unsuccessful Applicants, 2003**

<b>State</b>	<b>Rejection Rate of Offers %</b>	<b>Unsuccessful Applicants Range (after discounting)</b>	<b>Unsuccessful applicants as % of eligible applicants %</b>
New South Wales/ACT	19 - 31	5900 - 7900	8.3 - 11.1
Victoria	7 - 43	3300 - 7300	5.4 - 11.8
Queensland	15 - 10	6800 - 7100	12.3 - 12.8
South Australia	9 - 8	1300 - 1400	8.3 - 9.0
Western Australia	20 - 25	1300 - 1600	6.9 - 8.5
Tasmania	15 - 25	200 - 300	3.0 - 4.5
<b>Total (a)</b>	<b>14 - 24</b>	<b>18700 - 25700</b>	<b>8.2 - 11.2</b>

Note: Total excludes Northern Territory.

## **Acknowledgment**

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## **SURVEY OF APPLICANTS FOR UNDERGRADUATE HIGHER EDUCATION COURSES, 2003**

### **APPENDICES:**

- A      Discounting Methodology**
- B      Eligibility and overall rejection rate of offers**
- C      UAI/TER at quartile percentile ranking of students who accepted offer by Selected Field of Education**
- D      Time Series Tables of the Survey of Applicants for undergraduate places, 2003**

<a href="#">Table A1</a>	Percentile distribution of Year 12 Home State students, Applicants, and Offers Received (20 years and under) by State, 2003
<a href="#">Table A2</a>	Outcome of Applications by Applicants after All Rounds of Offers, by Number of Preferences Expressed by State, 2003
<a href="#">Table A3</a>	Comparison of Applicants not Receiving an Offer by State, 1989-2003(a)
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<a href="#">Table A.9</a>	Summary 1985 to 2003 - Comparison of Applicants and Applicants not Receiving an Offer

## APPENDIX A

### Methodology for Applying Discounting Factors

#### 1. Eligibility

In recognition of the different admission processes and entry criteria in each State, the Survey has used the figures for gross numbers of unsuccessful applicants based on each Admission Centre's criteria for applying the definition of 'eligibility' used in the survey. As in previous years, and in view of the range of entry qualifications presented by mature age students, it is assumed that all such applicants are 'eligible'. See **Appendix B** for further details on the current criteria adopted by each Admission Centre.

This assumption, together with:

- detailed information on the distribution of all Year 12 Home-State applicants by percentile ranking of final year assessment scores, and
- the subsequent numbers who are eligible and do not receive an offer,

has provided a profile of the distribution of applicants for each State across the decile bands.

The decile band data is used to reduce base levels of unsuccessful applicants in those States which have not taken account of the lower bands when applying eligibility criteria. The model has assumed that applicants not receiving an offer, whose UAI ranking is in the lowest 30%, do not represent genuine unsuccessful applicants. The gross unsuccessful applicant figures for Queensland and Tasmania, are required to be discounted by excluding such applicants in this group, while this is not necessary for the other States as this cohort has already been excluded at the gross level. For example in 2003, there are 608 eligible applicants in Queensland and 123 in Tasmania below the percentile of 30 not receiving an offer, which are excluded in the discount process. (See **Step B** in **Table 7** of the Survey Report).

#### 2. Double counting

On the assumption that many interstate applicants would have applied to more than one admissions centre, an adjustment has been made for double counting. The discounting factor for Year 12 interstate applicants (aged 20 years and under) has been applied to each State according to two alternative assumptions. Assumption I discounts 100% and Assumption II discounts 80% of eligible interstate Year 12 applicants who do not receive an offer. (See **Step C** in **Table 7** of the Survey Report). The assumptions are based on the premise that, while it is difficult to obtain an exact measure of the extent to which interstate applicants also apply within their own State, available data suggests that many, if not all, have also applied within their home State.

#### 3. Restricted range of preferences

The number of preferences, of which applicants are allowed to indicate, varies from State to State, and the chances of an applicant receiving an offer when presenting a restricted range of preferences are much higher in some States than others. **Table A2** of the **Appendix D** sets out the information provided by the admissions centres on the number of applicants who listed specific numbers of preferences, and the number of offers made to each sub-group. The extent to which applicants who express a reduced number of preferences represent genuine unsuccessful applicants is a matter on which opinions will differ. Depending on the assumptions made about genuine unsuccessful applicants, varying percentages of applicants

with one and two preferences can be excluded. Because the gross unsuccessful applicants' figure has already been discounted for applicants ranked in the lowest 30%, only the appropriate proportions of one and two preference applicants have been applied to adjust the figures for a restricted range of preference.

**Table A2** of the **Appendix D** contains the relevant figures for each State to derive the factors for discounting applicants not receiving an offer based on their first preference. (See **Steps D** and **E** in **Tables 7** of the Survey Report). This is based on the ratio of the number of eligible applicants not receiving an offer to those who have, according to their first preference.

#### **4. Rate of rejection of offers**

As in the previous surveys, comments were invited from admissions centres on the factor that would appropriately account for rejection of offers in their State. The views expressed by admission centres as well as the main stakeholders of this survey suggest that the broad rates (of between 30% to 50%) used in the previous model were too conservative and therefore will no longer be used. Only the State specific rejection rates are now used for **Step F** of discounting the gross number of applicants not receiving an offer. (See **Tables 7 and 8** for details) of the Survey Report.

The range of rejection factors set out in **Table 8** represents the high and low ends of applicants considered in this year's survey. The high end of applicants refers to those with UAI/TER in the 90s while the low end of applicants to those with UAI or equivalent in the 50s or lower. For example the rejection rates provided by Victoria are 7% to 43% with the 7% referring to the high-end group and 43% the low-end group of applicants.

## APPENDIX B

### Eligibility of applicants - 2003

Eligibility of applicants and overall rejection rate of offer are defined by the Admission Centres as follows:

<b>NSW/ACT</b>	<p>Year 12 - students who have a UAI or ITI of 48.35 or better            Other - all other applicants</p> <p>Rejection rate overall (home-State Year 12 applicants) = 21%</p>
<b>Victoria</b>	<p>Eligibility is based on successful completion of the VCE (year 12 English must also have been passed). All applicants in this category gain an ENTER and all are eligible to be selected. In practice applicants with ENTERS below 50 are unlikely to be offered places except in cases of special consideration in relation to access schemes where secondary schooling has been affected by particular circumstances.</p> <p>Rejection rate overall (home-State Year 12 applicants) = 13.12%</p>
<b>Queensland</b>	<p>Queensland universities specify eligibility on a course by course basis and do not confer overall eligibility or "matriculation status". Therefore QTAC does not hold indicators of eligibility per se.</p> <p>Rejection rate overall = 12.1%</p>
<b>South Australia</b>	<p>Applicants include all applicants qualifying for the SACE regardless of HESS status gaining a TER of 50.15 or above (the lowest used as a formal cut-off score by an SA institution in 2001/2002)</p> <p>Rejection rate overall = 9%</p>
<b>Western Australia</b>	<p>The criteria for eligibility has been arbitrary set at a TER <math>\geq 60.00</math> so that comparisons of WA data between years can be made.</p> <p>Rejection rate overall = 23%</p>
<b>Tasmania</b>	<p>Eligibility has been defined in terms of the qualification rules which apply in the relevant state.</p> <p>Rejection rate overall = 25%</p>
<b>Northern Territory (a)</b>	<p>Non-Law applicants were eligible with TER <math>\geq 60.0</math>, and Law applicants with TER <math>\geq 70.0</math>.</p> <p>Rejection rate overall = 44%</p>

(a) Not included in the main data manipulation of the Survey.

## APPENDIX C

### UAI/TER at quartile percentile ranking of students who accepted offer by Selected Field of Education, 2003

Set out below is a summary of percentile ranking of students who accepted offers by the following selected fields of education in quartiles:

<b>Selected Field of Education</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>Cut-off</b>
Agriculture	86.8	80.1	74.9	70.3	65.9
Architecture	92.6	86.9	82.6	79.2	74.7
Society/Culture/Creative Art	89.6	83.7	79.6	76.3	71.8
Management/Commerce	88.2	82.5	79.0	75.9	72.0
Education	89.9	83.1	78.6	74.8	70.5
Engineering	92.1	87.2	83.4	80.3	76.1
Dental Studies	94.3	94.2	88.5	86.5	85.3
Nursing	88.1	80.2	75.6	72.6	67.8
Medical Studies	99.0	95.9	94.1	91.8	82.9
Health Other	92.3	87.3	84.3	81.7	78.3
Law	96.3	94.6	92.9	91.3	89.4
Justice/Law Enforcement	87.8	80.8	77.0	73.5	67.8
Natural & Physical Science	91.5	86.0	82.2	78.8	74.9
Information Technology	88.4	82.2	78.5	74.6	70.9
Veterinary Studies	99.0	98.5	97.8	97.3	96.7

The intention of the summary is to provide a broad indication of the academic strength of applicants who accepted an offer made by respective Admission Centres (measured by UAI/TER).

Caution must be exercised in interpreting the rankings set out in the table, in that there could be a diverse range of bachelor courses grouped in each field of education and the rankings are the averages of the courses in each field. The cut-off scores listed are the average scores for all courses under the respective fields of education.