

Job-Ready Graduates briefing note: Growth places

The Government will increase the funding envelope each year to allow for more funded places. This is to meet expected growth in the prime age cohort across the 2020s and respond to the immediate COVID-19 spike in applications.

The approach to doing this is to increase the funding based on campus locations, weighted by domestic student EFTSL associated with the campus, across three sets of locations:

- regional, at 3.5%. Which covers all of Australia outside the five mainland State capitals and the ACT, Geelong, Wollongong, Newcastle, Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast. This is about 14% of 2018 load;
- metro high at 2.5%, various statistical regions, reflecting the above average population growth areas for 20-29 year olds. This is about 35% of 2018 load; and
- metro low at 1%, the other set of regions (this is about 52% of 2018 load).

Overall that represents about 1.9% growth, and 1.6% growth in the metropolitan areas.

The Minister's initial presentation of the metro emphasised outer versus inner metro not high and low growth. There is no close alignment which makes the population growth factor somewhat random in effect. Many of the high growth areas have few to no campuses so that the majority of current load by campus is in Metro low growth regions.

The attached sheet shows the spread of load by campus type for each university across Australia and for each State. The growth planned is quite low for some States notably SA.

There are other ways to allocate the metropolitan based funding but without additional funds these would balance out better outcomes for some universities with worse outcomes for others:

1. Low Attainment versus high Attainment regions would be better metric to guide where location driven allocation should go. That would avoid the ACT and inner cities. Those areas may still tend to be beyond where the major campuses are, even though being active catchments for IRU members' metropolitan campuses
2. The Minister divides universities into ones that should/want to grow a lot and ones that should not.

Overall the planned growth is barely sufficient to meet likely demand over the next three years and will be shorter again in following years. This leads to an argument for more growth funding in total that would allow a better outcome for currently low growth universities that want a better outcome.

23 July 2020

Estimated growth allocation

Area	Allocation %
Metro High	2.5%
Metro Low	1.0%
Regional & Remote	3.5%

State	2018 Load Institutions	Major Cities			Total EFTSL	Allocation Growth %
		Metro High	Metro Low	Regional & Remote		
ACT	ANU	7,943			7,943	2.5%
ACT	Canberra	8,003	3	4	8,009	2.5%
NSW	CSU	401	104	11,598	12,102	3.4%
NSW	Macquarie	20,636	6		20,642	2.5%
NSW	Newcastle		18,072	254	18,326	1.0%
NSW	SCU	2,388	1	3,929	6,317	3.1%
NSW	Sydney	156	21,796		21,953	1.0%
NSW	UNE			8,673	8,673	3.5%
NSW	UNSW	29	22,044		22,072	1.0%
NSW	UTS	20	20,470		20,490	1.0%
NSW	Wollongong	170	12,381	458	13,009	1.1%
NSW	WSU	7,427	19,576	23	27,027	1.4%
NT	CDU		9	4,272	4,281	3.5%
Qld	CQU	566	328	8,438	9,332	3.4%
Qld	Griffith	14,073	10,482		24,555	1.9%
Qld	JCU			8,825	8,825	3.5%
Qld	Queensland	306	20,587	1,265	22,159	1.2%
Qld	QUT	26,840			26,840	2.5%
Qld	Sunshine	7,995		610	8,605	2.6%
Qld	USQ	1,733		8,351	10,084	3.3%
SA	Adelaide		12,304	315	12,619	1.1%
SA	Flinders	3	11,070	69	11,142	1.0%
SA	UniSA		15,864	373	16,237	1.1%
Tas	Tasmania		668	12,689	13,356	3.4%
Vic	Deakin	15,028	9,683	1,224	25,935	2.0%
Vic	Federation	1,033	83	4,513	5,629	3.3%
Vic	La Trobe	15,381	71	4,525	19,977	2.7%
Vic	Melbourne		16,923	94	17,017	1.0%
Vic	Monash	24,405	3,553	78	28,036	2.3%
Vic	RMIT	4,032	17,901		21,933	1.3%
Vic	Swinburne	16,882	27		16,909	2.5%
Vic	VU	8,681	1,896		10,577	2.2%
WA	Curtin		21,384	76	21,460	1.0%
WA	ECU		12,297	768	13,065	1.1%
WA	Murdoch	8,917			8,917	2.5%
WA	UWA		9,694	83	9,776	1.0%
MS	ACU	3,906	14,691	833	19,429	1.4%
AUS	Total	196,952	293,967	82,339	573,258	1.9%
		34%	51%	14%	100%	1.9%

State	Major Cities			Total EFTSL	Allocation Growth %
	Metro High	Metro Low	Regional & Remote		
ACT	15,946	3	4	15,952	2.5%
NSW	31,225	114,450	24,934	170,609	1.6%
QLD	51,512	31,398	27,489	110,398	2.3%
VIC	85,443	50,137	10,435	146,014	2.1%
NT	0	9	4,272	4,281	3.5%
SA	3	39,239	757	39,999	1.0%
TAS	0	668	12,689	13,356	3.4%
WA	8,917	43,374	927	53,219	1.3%
AUS	196,952	293,967	82,339	573,258	1.9%