

# Higher Education in Australia





# Australia's Education System

Education in Australia is offered through schools, vocational education and training providers and higher education institutions. The diagram below shows the qualifications and broad age-profile of students for each sector.

Schooling is provided through government and non-government systems. About three-quarters of all schools are in the government system. Most non-government schools receive

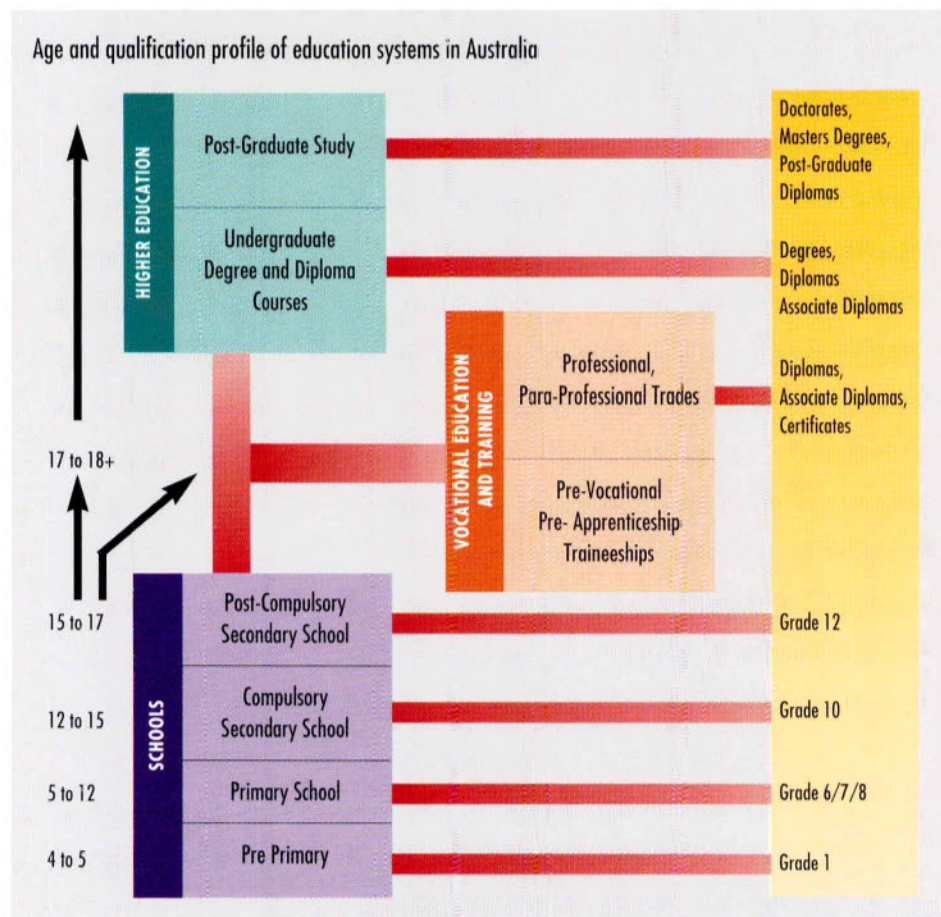
some public funding and are usually conducted by religious denominations.

Technical and Further Education (TAFE) colleges are the main providers of vocational education and training in technical and trade fields. State Governments have prime responsibility for TAFE colleges. Private training providers also supply courses in vocational education and training.

Higher education institutions are the principal

providers of education in professional and academic fields. Most professional studies are commenced in Australia at undergraduate level. The Federal Government provides the majority of institutional funding. Most institutions operate under State Government legislation. There are also two private higher education institutions in Australia.

The conferring of higher education awards and the responsibility for governance lies with individual institutions. Institutions annually provide information to, and discuss resource allocation and performance issues with the Federal Government.



## Size of the Education Sector

The school system has the largest number of students, teachers and institutions. Although many more students are enrolled in TAFE colleges than in universities, TAFE courses are generally shorter and most TAFE students are enrolled part-time.

The Federal Government provides about 37 per cent of total outlays on education in Australia. State Governments provide a further 56 per cent, and the remaining 7 per cent is from private sources. In 1990-91, Federal Government expenditure on education represented some 5.1 per cent of Gross Domestic Product. In 1992-93, it was forecast that the Federal Government will spend 8.4 per cent of its total outlays on education. Forty-three per cent of education outlays will go to higher education and 30 per cent to schools. In addition, vocational education and training providers will receive 6 per cent, student assistance will make up 19 per cent and administrative costs will be 2 per cent.

## Data

All data used are the most recent available and as such, the date references vary from topic to topic. Data sources are shown on page 10.

# Higher Education in Australia

## Education in Australia 1991, some key facts

	Student enrolments	Teaching staff	Institutions
Higher Ed.	534,538	48,772 *	44
TAFE	1,824,536	75,843	884
Schools	3,075,137	199,532	9,980

\*includes research staff

**Note:** 660,000 enrolments in TAFE were in recreation and leisure courses. The teaching staff numbers in TAFE exclude some part-time teachers. Higher education data excludes private institutions.

## Participation rates (per 1,000 of relevant age cohort)

	School 1991	TAFE 1990	Higher Education 1991
15 - 16	866	114	*
17 - 19	230	251	163
20 - 24	6	137	132
25 - 29	*	89	46
30 - 64	*	51	20

\*less than 1 per thousand

## Educational Qualifications

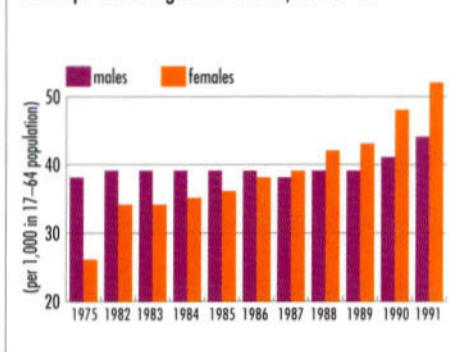
In 1992 there were over 1.1 million people in Australia who held degrees or about 13 per cent of the labour force. Of these, 58 per cent were male and 42 per cent were female; 10 per cent were under 25 years of age, 31 per cent were aged 25-35, and the remaining 59 per cent were over 35 years of age.

These figures can be compared with 1982, when there were about 650,000 people with degrees or about 9 per cent of the labour force. Of these, 64 per cent were male and 36 per cent female. Nine per cent of degree holders were under 25 years of age, 36 per cent were aged 25-35 years, and 55 per cent were over 35 years of age.

In 1992, there were 44 higher education institutions in Australia; 35 of these were members of the Unified National System. There were some 560,000 students in higher education of which 211,000 commenced their studies in 1992. Total enrolments represented 440,000 EFTSU (Equivalent Full-Time Student Units), of which 364,000 were funded through Federal Government operating grants to institutions.

Between 1983 and 1992 the number of students enrolled in higher education increased by over 60 per cent from less than 350,000 students to 560,000. The chart below shows that the number of commencing students rose from 128,000 in 1983 and peaked at 218,000 in 1991, then dropped slightly in 1992 to 211,000 as institutions adjusted their intakes following over-enrolments in 1991.

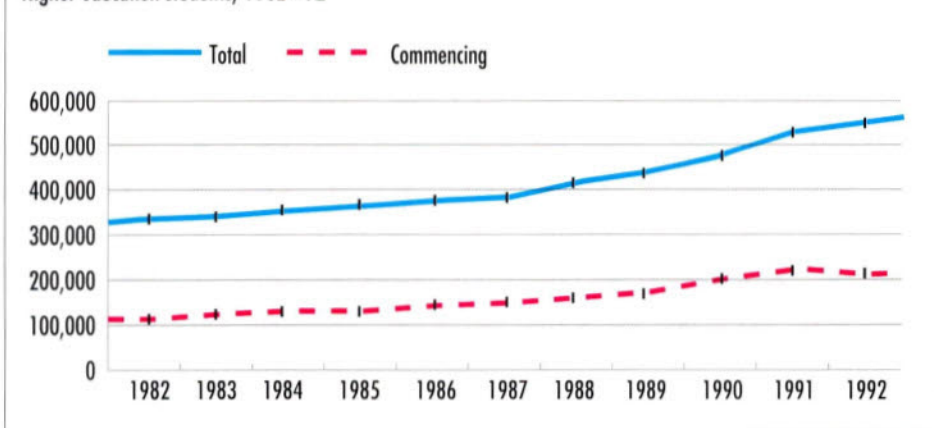
## Participation in higher education, 1975 - 91



## Participation in Higher Education

In 1982, the higher education participation rate was 36 per thousand in the 17-64 year old population. The 1991 rate was 48. Female participation in higher education has risen faster than for males. In 1982, the female participation rate was 34 and the male rate was 39. By 1988, the female rate had passed the male rate, and in 1991 the female rate exceeded the male rate (52 and 44 respectively).

## Higher education students, 1982 - 92

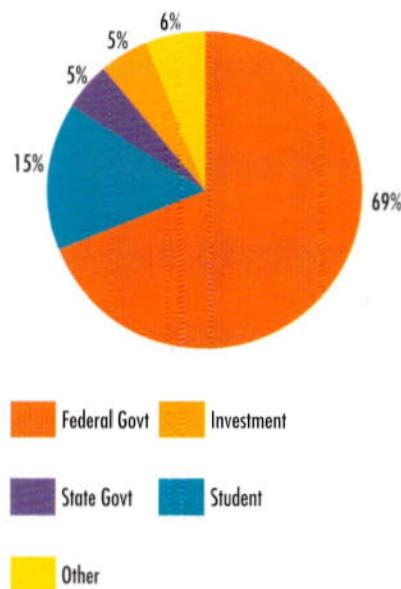




## Income

In 1990, income for the Australian higher education system totalled \$4.9 billion.

Sources of income, 1990



Federal Government funding includes direct funding from the Department of Employment, Education and Training (DEET) and from other Federal Departments. Student payments include Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS) contributions, fees and overseas student payments. The other sources include bequests and donations.

From 1989, Australian students have paid a contribution to the cost of higher education through the HECS. Students choose either to pay in advance at a discounted rate to their enrolling institution each semester, or after

completion at an indexed rate through the taxation system when their income reaches about the level of the average annual earnings of the labour force.

Federal Government funding of higher education institutions totalled over \$4,220 million in 1992. This compares with \$2,970 million in 1983 and \$3,350 million in 1988 (all December 1991 prices).

## Student characteristics

**Commencing students** – of the 211,000 commencing students in 1992, 157,000 commenced undergraduate courses. Almost 42 per cent (65,600 students) of the commencing undergraduates completed secondary school in 1991 and a further 9 per cent (13,900 students) had completed school in 1990. The other 77,100 (49 per cent) undergraduate commencing students were mature-age students.

**Enrolment type** – in 1992, 61 per cent of all students were enrolled full-time, 28 per cent were part-time and 11 per cent were external. Postgraduate students were more likely to be enrolled part-time than undergraduate students (55 per cent of postgraduate students were enrolled part-time compared with 22 per cent for undergraduates).

**Level** – there were 413,000 students enrolled in bachelor courses in 1992, representing over 74 per cent of all students enrolled. A further 6 per cent were enrolled in diploma and associate diploma courses, 10 per cent were in higher degree courses, 9 per cent were in other postgraduate courses (predominantly postgraduate diplomas), and 1 per cent were in enabling and non-award courses.

**Age** – Twenty-nine per cent of students enrolled in 1992 were aged 19 or under, a further 32 per cent were aged between 20 and 24, 12 per cent were aged between 25 and 29 and the remaining 27 per cent were aged 30 and over. The proportion of students aged 19 and under

## Level by gender, enrolments, and growth to 1992

Level	Males	Females	Total	Growth 1983-92
Higher Degree by Research	14,666	9,620	24,286	87%
Higher Degree by Coursework	16,322	12,953	29,275	142%
Other	21,991	27,903	49,894	56%
Postgraduate				
Bachelor	190,177	223,144	413,321	81%
Other	13,885	21,327	35,212	-41%
Enabling and Non-award	3,512	3,865	7,377	99%
Total	260,553	298,812	559,365	60%

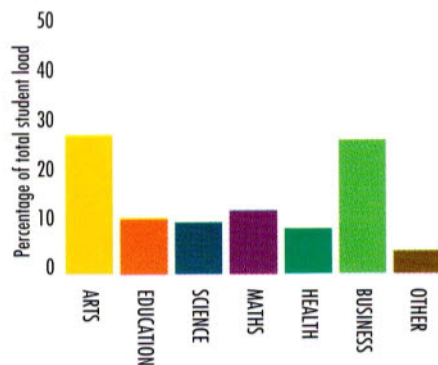
has increased since 1983 (up from 28 per cent), and the proportion aged 25-29 has declined (down from 15 per cent). There are more female students in the younger and older age groups, but more male students aged between 20 and 29.

**Areas of Study** – the two largest areas of study (based on Academic Organization Unit groups) in terms of student load in 1991 were Arts, Humanities and Social Studies (114,000 students) and Administration, Business, Economics and Law (95,000 students). Students in these two areas represent about 49 per cent of all load. After Arts and Business the next largest areas were Mathematics, Computing, Engineering (64,000 students) and Education (48,000 students).

The following chart shows the distribution of students in the largest areas. 'Arts' includes Humanities, Social Studies, and the Performing Arts. 'Health' includes medicine and nursing. 'Business' includes Administration, Business, Economics and Law, and the 'Mathematics' category includes Mathematics, Computing, and Engineering. The 'Other' category includes Built Environment, Agriculture, and Renewable Resources.

Female students were concentrated in three areas of study: Arts, Humanities, Social Studies (where they comprised 68 per cent of

## Areas of Study 1991



enrolments), Education (73 per cent), and Health (74 per cent).

**Completions** – in 1990, over 94,000 higher education students completed courses, up 28,000 or 42 per cent on the number completing courses in 1981. About three-quarters of the 1990 completions were at the undergraduate level. Female students accounted for over 50 per cent of both undergraduate and postgraduate completions in 1990. Institutions are projecting that annual completions will rise by a further 34 per cent to over 126,000 annually by 1993.

## Overseas Students

In 1991, there were 34,000 overseas students in Australian higher education institutions. They represented 6.4 per cent of the student population. Overseas students were highly represented in business, engineering and science courses.

Many students are coming to Australia in their final years of secondary school to prepare for higher study.

## Staff at Higher Education Institutions

In 1991, there were 72,000 staff at higher education institutions, about half of whom were involved in teaching and research functions. Of the academic staff, 5,000 were classified above senior lecturer, 7,000 were senior lecturers, 12,000 were lecturers and 5,000 were classified below the level of lecturer. Academic staff are predominantly male (70 per cent of all academic staff were male) particularly at higher levels where 90 per cent of academics above senior lecturer and 82 per cent of senior lecturers were male.

Almost 60 per cent of full-time and fractional full-time academic staff were on a tenurable term, a further 37 per cent were on a limited term. Over 80 per cent of academics at senior lecturer level and above had tenure, whereas only half of the lecturers were on a tenurable term. Male academics are also more likely to have tenure (66 per cent of male academic staff were on a tenurable term, compared with 44 per cent of female staff).

## Research Strengths of Higher Education Institutions

There is a wide range of research strength, by academic discipline, across the higher education system.

In 1992, around \$225 million was allocated by DEET, on the advice of the Australian Research Council, to institutions on a competitive basis for large, small, and collaborative research grants, large equipment grants, postgraduate awards, infrastructure and fellowships.

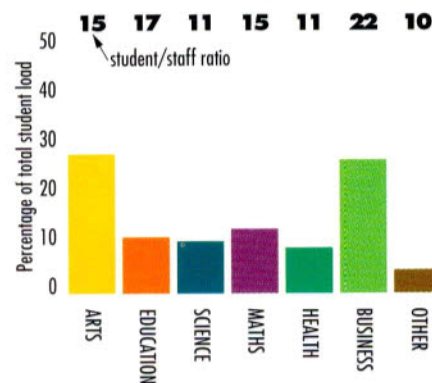
In addition, institutions attract research funding from a range of sources including other Federal Government agencies and industry.

Some institutions have expanded their links with industry and the Government has introduced a new scheme to fund such collaborative research activities on a dollar for dollar basis.

## Institutional Comparisons

The pages that follow provide information on individual institutions in Australia's Unified National System. The information within each chart on pages 5 through 10 includes a graph which shows the proportion (percentage) of student load by area of study in 1991, and figures showing student/staff ratios for 1991. The data shown below each of the charts are actual numbers.

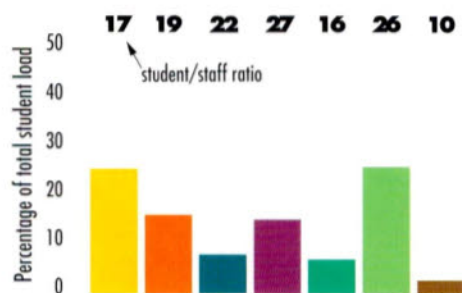
### KEY:



The student load proportions and student/staff ratios shown in the key above are actual system averages for 1991.

Technical Note: The student/staff ratios for the institutions are calculated using student load figures (EFTSU excluding load for industrial experience) and full-time equivalent (FTE) staff figures (that is, academic staff with teaching only, or teaching and research functions, excluding teaching in TAFE). When the ratios are calculated in this manner, a more accurate reflection of student/staff ratios is obtained than if total staff and student numbers were used. Note that the profiles of the institutions underneath the graphs show total numbers of student enrolments and of teaching, and teaching and research staff. These numbers should not be used to calculate student/staff ratios.





### Charles Sturt University

*New South Wales*

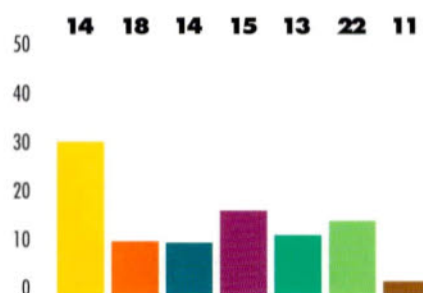
Total Enrolments: 15,134

Teaching and Research Staff: 472

Research Funds: \$483,000

External Students: 8,658

Campuses: Albury-Wodonga, Bathurst, Wagga



### University of Newcastle

*New South Wales*

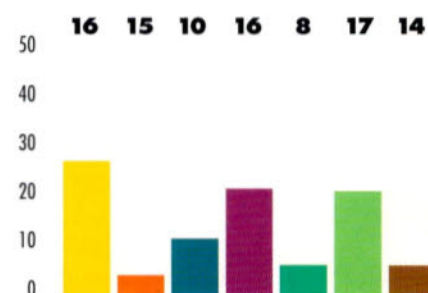
Total Enrolments: 14,213

Teaching and Research Staff: 648

Research Funds: \$5,164,000

External Students: 332

Campuses: Newcastle (Callaghan), Ourimbah



### University of New South Wales

*New South Wales*

Total Enrolments: 26,006

Teaching and Research Staff: 1,356

Research Funds: \$21,379,000

External Students: 956

Campuses: Sydney (Paddington, Kensington, Oatley)



### Macquarie University

*New South Wales*

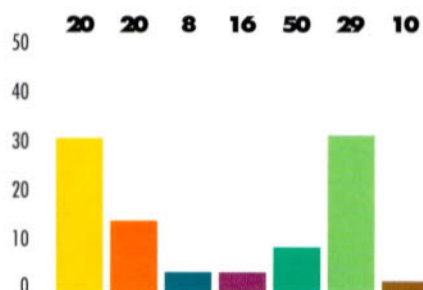
Total Enrolments: 15,016

Teaching and Research Staff: 612

Research Funds: \$7,549,000

External Students: 1,696

Campuses: Sydney (North Ryde, Waverley)



### University of New England

*New South Wales*

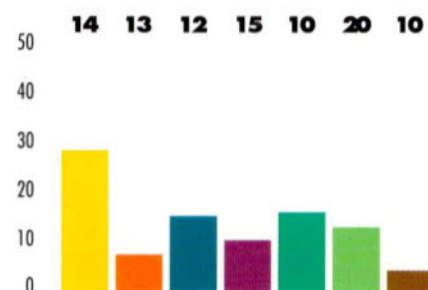
Total Enrolments: 19,898

Teaching and Research Staff: 730

Research Funds: \$3,516,000

External Students: 10,971

Campuses: Armidale, Orange, Lismore, Coffs Harbour



### University of Sydney

*New South Wales*

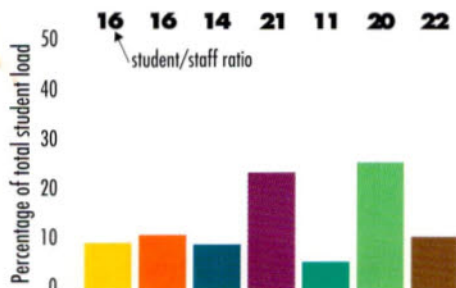
Total Enrolments: 30,451

Teaching and Research Staff: 1,876

Research Funds: \$21,272,000

External Students: 1

Campuses: Sydney (Camperdown, Glebe, Lidcombe, Broadway)



### University of Technology, Sydney

*New South Wales*

Total Enrolments: 20,126

Teaching and Research Staff: 700

Research Funds: \$3,395,000

External Students: 0

Campuses: Sydney (Broadway, Balmain, St Leonards, Kuring-gai)



### University of Wollongong

*New South Wales*

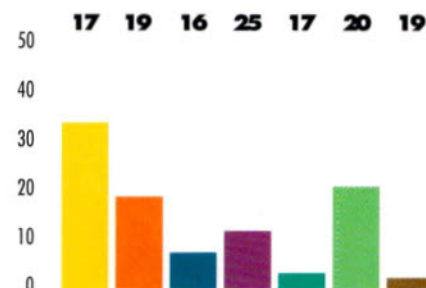
Total Enrolments: 10,912

Teaching and Research Staff: 463

Research Funds: \$3,850,000

External Students: 130

Campus: Wollongong



### Griffith University

*Queensland*

Total Enrolments: 14,588

Teaching and Research Staff: 619

Research Funds: \$3,076,000

External Students: 111

Campuses: Brisbane (Nathan, Mt Gravatt, Morningside, Sth Brisbane), Southport



### University of Western Sydney

*New South Wales*

Total Enrolments: 17,765

Teaching and Research Staff: 718

Research Funds: \$794,000

External Students: 512

Campuses: Sydney (Richmond, Milperra, Campbelltown, Kingswood)



### Northern Territory University

*Northern Territory*

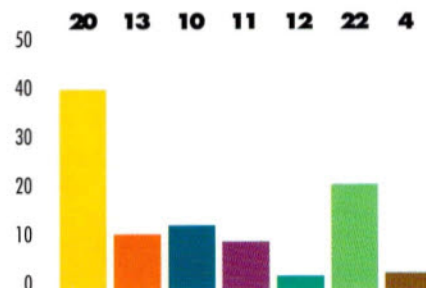
Total Enrolments: 3,778

Teaching and Research Staff: 193

Research Funds: \$917,000

External Students: 360

Campuses: Darwin (Casuarina, Larrakeyah)



### James Cook University of North Queensland

*Queensland*

Total Enrolments: 7,700

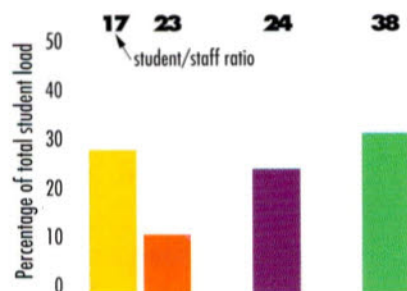
Teaching and Research Staff: 379

Research Funds: \$3,384,000

External Students: 40

Campuses: Townsville, Cairns





### University of Southern Queensland

Queensland

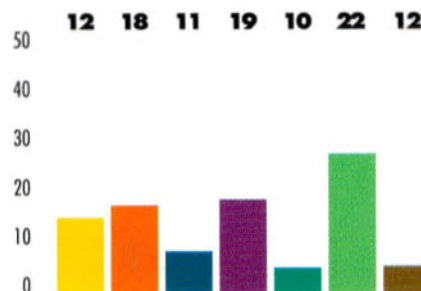
Total Enrolments: 12,406

Teaching and Research Staff: 330

Research Funds: \$134,000

External Students: 7,834

Campuses: Toowoomba, Pinalba, Warwick



### Queensland University of Technology

Queensland

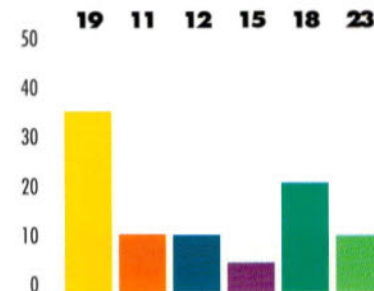
Total Enrolments: 23,189

Teaching and Research Staff: 885

Research Funds: \$4,504,000

External Students: 1,516

Campuses: Brisbane (City, Kelvin Grove, Kedron Park, Carseldine) Nambour



### Flinders University of SA

South Australia

Total Enrolments: 10,670

Teaching and Research Staff: 582

Research Funds: \$5,549,000

External Students: 682

Campus: Adelaide (Bedford Park)



### University of Queensland

Queensland

Total Enrolments: 24,743

Teaching and Research Staff: 1,612

Research Funds: \$18,914,000

External Students: 1,604

Campuses: Brisbane (City), Lawes



### University of Central Queensland

Queensland

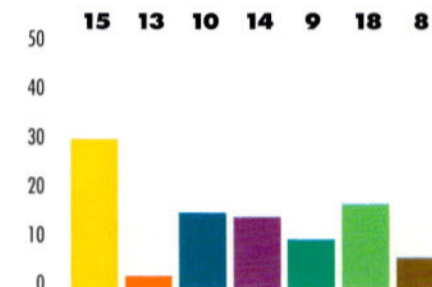
Total Enrolments: 7,581

Teaching and Research Staff: 219

Research Funds: \$612,000

External Students: 3,620

Campuses: Rockhampton, Gladstone, Bundaberg, Emerald, Mackay



### University of Adelaide

South Australia

Total Enrolments: 12,711

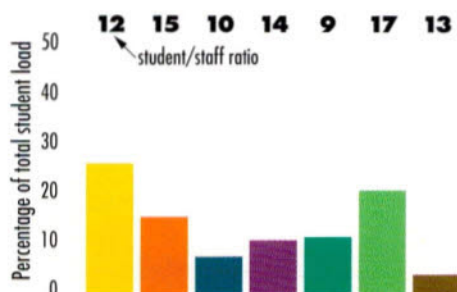
Teaching and Research Staff: 781

Research Funds: \$13,845,000

External Students: 525

Campuses: Adelaide (North Terrace, Waite) Roseworthy





### University of South Australia

*South Australia*

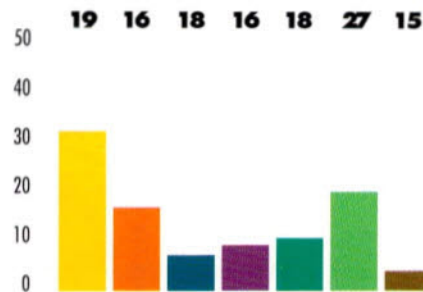
Total Enrolments: 20,454

Teaching and Research Staff: 1,095

Research Funds: \$4,030,000

External Students: 2,594

Campuses: Adelaide (Pooraka, Salisbury East, Underdale, Magill), Whyalla



### Deakin University

*Victoria*

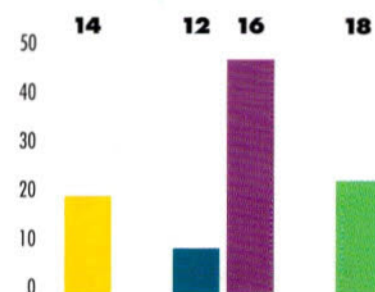
Total Enrolments: 23,543

Teaching and Research Staff: 882

Research Funds: \$1,549,000

External Students: 7,665

Campuses: Melbourne (Burwood, Rusden, Toorak, Lilydale), Geelong, Warrnambool



### Swinburne University of Technology

*Victoria*

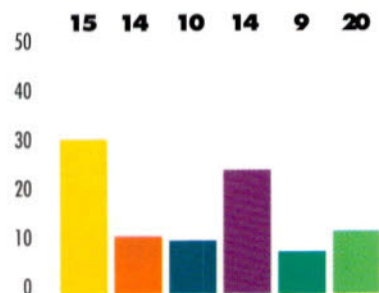
Total Enrolments: 8,233

Teaching and Research Staff: 373

Research Funds: \$990,000

External Students: 0

Campuses: Melbourne (Hawthorn, Mooroolbark, Prahran)



### Ballarat University College

*Victoria*

Total Enrolments: 4,120

Teaching and Research Staff: 229

Research Funds: \$102,000

External Students: 0

Campus: Ballarat (Mount Helen)



### Victoria University of Technology

*Victoria*

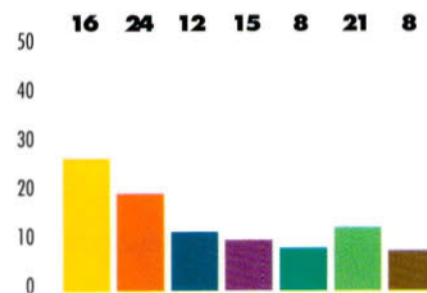
Total Enrolments: 11,337

Teaching and Research Staff: 508

Research Funds: \$803,000

External Students: 0

Campuses: Melbourne (City, Footscray, St. Albans, Melton, Werribee)



### University of Melbourne

*Victoria*

Total Enrolments: 29,700

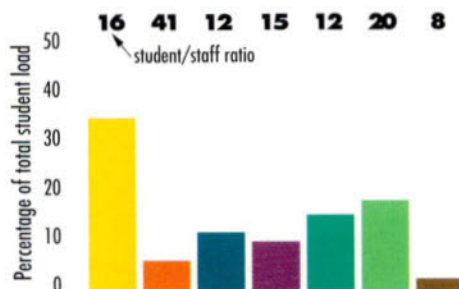
Teaching and Research Staff: 2,463

Research Funds: \$22,472,000

External Students: 319

Campuses: Melbourne (Parkville, Richmond, Werribee), Warragul, Horsham, Dookie, Glenormiston



**La Trobe University***Victoria*

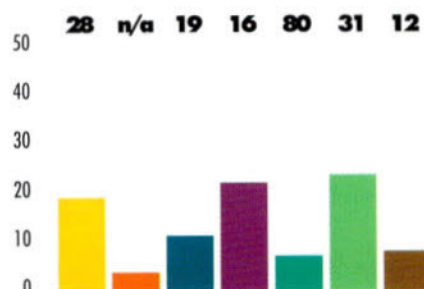
Total Enrolments: 20,917

Teaching and Research Staff: 1,166

Research Funds: \$7,760,000

External Students: 0

Campuses: Melbourne (Bundoora, Carlton, Abbotsford), Wodonga, Bendigo

**Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology***Victoria*

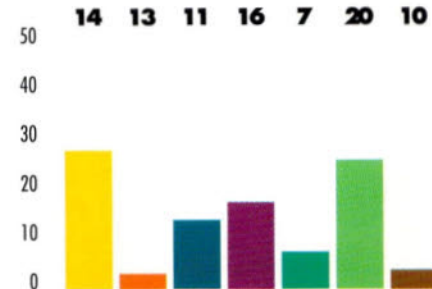
Total Enrolments: 22,776

Teaching and Research Staff: 1,019

Research Funds: \$4,210,000

External Students: 352

Campuses: Melbourne (City, Coburg, Bundoora)

**University of Western Australia***Western Australia*

Total Enrolments: 12,046

Teaching and Research Staff: 730

Research Funds: \$11,115,000

External Students: 0

Campus: Perth (Nedlands)

**Monash University***Victoria*

Total Enrolments: 35,384

Teaching and Research Staff: 2,652

Research Funds: \$14,512,000

External Students: 4,860

Campuses: Melbourne (Clayton, Caulfield, Frankston), Churchill

**Curtin University of Technology***Western Australia*

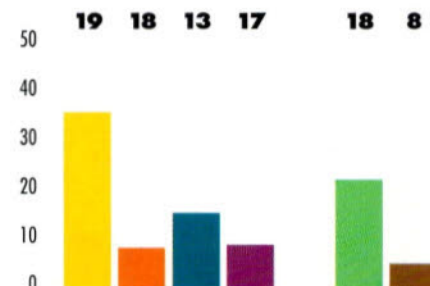
Total Enrolments: 17,941

Teaching and Research Staff: 798

Research Funds: \$6,365,000

External Students: 1,164

Campuses: Perth (Bentley), Collie, Kalgoorlie, Muresk

**Murdoch University***Western Australia*

Total Enrolments: 7,463

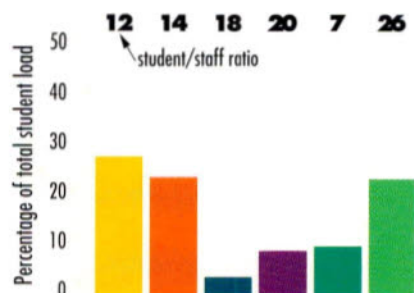
Teaching and Research Staff: 551

Research Funds: \$3,030,000

External Students: 1,326

Campus: Perth (Murdoch)





### Edith Cowan University

Western Australia

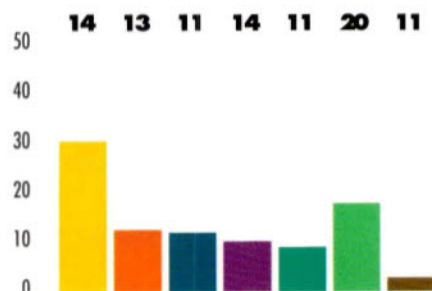
Total Enrolments: 17,283

Teaching and Research Staff: 570

Research Funds: \$373,000

External Students: 2,673

Campuses: Perth (Churchlands, Mt. Lawley, Claremont, Joondalup), Bunbury



### University of Tasmania

Tasmania

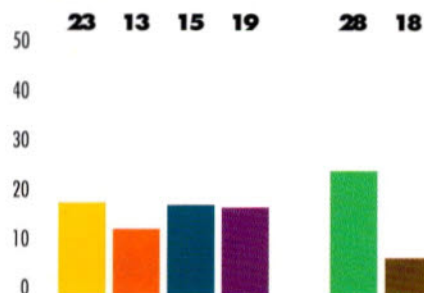
Total Enrolments: 11,300

Teaching and Research Staff: 626

Research Funds: \$6,182,000

External Students: 0

Campuses: Hobart (Sandy Bay), Launceston



### University of Canberra

ACT

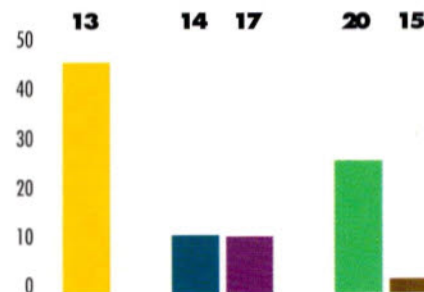
Total Enrolments: 9,156

Teaching and Research Staff: 315

Research Funds: \$920,000

External Students: 0

Campus: Canberra (Bruce)



### Australian National University

ACT

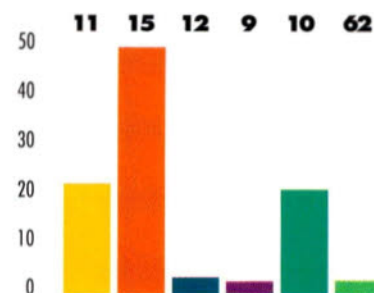
Total Enrolments: 9,839

Teaching and Research Staff: 690

Research Funds: \$11,122,000

External Students: 0

Campus: Canberra (Acton)



### Australian Catholic University

NSW, VIC, ACT, QLD

Total Enrolments: 7,980

Teaching and Research Staff: 422

Research Funds: \$131,000

External Students: 398

Campuses: NSW - Sydney (Castle Hill, North Sydney, Strathfield)

VIC - Melbourne (Ascot Vale, Oakleigh)

Ballarat

QLD - Brisbane (Mitchelton)

ACT - Canberra (Watson)

### Sources:

Total Enrolments (1992): Selected Higher Education Statistics 1992 - Preliminary, DEET.

Teaching and Research Staff (1991): Selected Higher Education Statistics 1991, DEET.

Research Funds (1992): Higher Education Funding for the 1992 - 94 Triennium 1991, DEET.

External students (1992): Selected Higher Education Statistics 1992 - Preliminary, DEET.

Note: Some data were obtained from the 1992 Higher Education student collection at DEET which are as yet unpublished.

## More Information

If you would like to know more about Australia's Higher Education System or have some comments to make about this booklet, write to:

Assistant Secretary  
Information Branch  
Higher Education Division  
Department of  
Employment, Education  
and Training  
GPO Box 9880  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Or you can contact the  
Division's Information  
Branch on

Tel (06) 276 7551 or  
Fax: (06) 276 7057

## Locations of Higher Education Institutions and Study Centres 1992

