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## Definitions of Equity Performance Indicators

### General Notes

#### **Student Population for the Equity Tables**

All the Equity Tables in Section 16 include only domestic students with their permanent home residence in Australia. Tables include Table A and B Institutions. Data includes students studying at all course levels unless undergraduate is specified.

#### **Rate**

The rate is the indicator expressed as a percentage of all domestic onshore students.

#### **Ratio**

The ratio is the indicator for an equity group expressed as a rate divided by a equity reference value for that indicator. This is a better measure of equity because it makes a comparison between the equity group and a suitable benchmark. Ratios of less than 1.00 indicate poor performance, while ratios of 1.00 and greater indicate good performance.

#### **Privacy & Confidentiality Issues**

For reasons of student confidentiality, it is the policy of the Department to restrict display of cells containing small numbers so that individual students cannot be identified. These are shown as "n.p." (for "not published") in the relevant cells.

### Equity groups

#### **Non-English speaking background**

A domestic student who arrived in Australia less than 10 years prior to the year in which the data were collected, and who comes from a home where a language other than English is spoken.

#### **Student with a Disability**

Students who have indicated that they have a disability, impairment or long term medical condition which may affect their studies.

#### **Regional/Remote MCEETYA 2006**

The student's postcode of permanent home residence is mapped to regional/remote categories using the MCEETYA classification. The MCEETYA codes are derived from the Australian Standard Geographical Classification with some adjustments to cater for the Department's special needs.

#### **Regional/Remote ASGS 2011**

Regional and Remote categories are derived from the ASGS. Classification is based on postcode.

#### **Regional/Remote ASGS 2016**

Regional and Remote categories are derived from the ASGS. Classification is based on postcode.

#### **Low Socio-economic Status SEIFA 2006**

The 2006 ABS Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) Index of Education and Occupation is used to identify postcodes nationally as low (bottom 25% of the population), medium (middle 50%) or high (top 25%) socioeconomic status (SES). An estimate of the number of low SES students is made by counting the number of domestic students whose reported postcode of permanent home location is a low SES postcode.

#### **Low Socio-economic Status SEIFA 2011**

The 2011 ABS Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) Index of Education and Occupation is used to identify postcodes nationally as low (bottom 25% of the population), medium (middle 50%) or high (top 25%) socioeconomic status (SES). An estimate of the number of low SES students is made by counting the number of domestic students whose reported postcode of permanent home location is a low SES postcode.

#### **Low Socio-economic Status SEIFA 2016**

The 2016 ABS Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) Index of Education and Occupation is used to identify postcodes nationally as low (bottom 25% of the population), medium (middle 50%) or high (top 25%) socioeconomic status (SES). An estimate of the number of low SES students is made by counting the number of domestic students whose reported postcode of permanent home location is a low SES postcode.

### Equity Performance Indicators

**Access Rate** = Commencing students in Equity Group / All Commencing domestic onshore students

**Participation Rate** = Students in Equity group/ All domestic onshore students

**Participation Ratio** = Participation Rate of Equity Group/ Proportion of Equity group in the State Population

Exception: Low SES group.

Participation Ratio of Low SES = Participation Rate of Low SES/ Participation Rate of High SES

Explanation:

Participation ratio compares the participation rate for an equity group against a reference value for that group. The reference value for most equity groups (disabilities, NESB, regional and remote) is the proportion of that equity group in the corresponding state population (aged 15-64 years). The reference value for low SES students is the participation rate of high SES students. Ratios above 1.0 indicate that the institution has a higher proportion of equity group students in their student population compared to the general population or reference group for that State, while values lower than 1.0 indicate a lower proportion.

Example: Institution A has 1000 students, of which 50 are Indigenous. This gives a participation rate of 50/1000 or 5.0%. Let's say the State has an Indigenous Reference value of 4.0% (meaning that 4.0% of the State population are indigenous). The Participation Ratio would be 5.0/4.0 or 1.25.

Note: The State population (15-64) years is taken from ABS calculations of estimated resident population. This estimated resident population figure is derived from the latest census, plus regular adjustments for natural increase (on a usual residence basis), net overseas migration and interstate movement involving a change of usual residence. The age group of 15-64 years is selected because that broadly represents the age group for students in higher education.

The participation ratio for overall State or National Totals is calculated slightly different to that for individual institutions. For these, we divide the overall number of students in the equity group by the a benchmark figure, which is calculated as the number we would expect from that equity group given the reference values for each State.

Example: State A has 50,000 students, 500 Indigenous students and a reference value of 2.0% (i.e.. 2% of the State population are indigenous). This gives a benchmark figure of  $50,000 * 2.0\% = 1000$ , and a participation ratio of  $500/1000=0.5$ . State B has 10,000 students, 500 Indigenous students and reference value of 4.0%, giving a benchmark figure of  $10,000 * 4.0\% = 400$ , and participation ratio of  $500/400=1.25$ . The National totals are calculated simply by adding the figures for the individual States:

Participation Ratio =  $(\text{Equity Group students State A} + \text{State B} + \dots) / (\text{benchmark State A} + \text{State B} + \dots)$  =  $(500+500)/(1000+400)=1000/1400=0.71$ .

**New Normal Retention Rate** = Continuing Students / All enrolled students minus completed

Explanation:

Retention rate measures the proportion of students who continue their studies from the previous year. This is usually referred to as the "Apparent Retention Rate" or "Crude Retention Rate", because it only a crude approximation the actual retention rate. Students may change their Student ID (without advising the Department), take a year off study, undertake research (without having a load and enrolment record), undertake cross-institution studies, or transfer to another institution. None of these student circumstances are able to be identified, so that all would be shown as "attrited" rather than "retained". This simply means that the "Retention Rate" is, at best, just a crude approximation of the situation for each institution, and the actual retention rate should be slightly higher than that quoted.

The retention rate formula comprises the following calculations:

"Students"=All students in the Equity group,  
"Completed"=All students who complete a course in the reference year or the following year,  
"Base"="Students" minus "Completed",  
"Retained"=Number of students from "Base" who are enrolled the following year,  
"Retention Rate"="Retained" / "Base".

Example: An institution had 1000 students in 2007, of which 200 completed a course in that year or the following year, and of the remaining 800 students, 500 were enrolled again in 2008. The retention rate is  $500/800$  or 62.5%

**Retention Ratio** = New Normal Retention Rate of Equity Group/ New Normal Retention Rate of Other students

The Retention Ratio is the retention rate for the equity group divided by the retention rate for students not in the equity group. A Retention Ratio of greater than 1.0 indicates that the students in the equity group have a better retention rate than the non-equity group students.

**Success Rate** = EFTSL passed / EFTSL certified (passed,failed,withdrawn)

Success Rate measures academic performance by comparing the effective full-time student load (EFTSL) of units passed to the EFTSL of units attempted.

**Success Ratio** = Success Rate of Equity students/ Success Rate of Other students

Exception: Low SES group.

Success Ratio of Low SES = Success Rate of Low SES/ Success Rate of High SES

The Success Ratio is the basically a comparison of the success rate for the equity group divided by the success rate for students not in the equity group. A Success Ratio of greater than 1.0 indicates that the students in the equity group have a better success rate than the non-equity group students.

**Attainment Rate** = Award Course Completions of Equity students/ All Domestic Award Course Completions

The Attainment Rate looks at the number of students completing a course in the given year, comparing the completions from the various equity groups to completions for all domestic onshore students. This measurement requires the students to have an enrolment record in the relevant year as well as a completion record, given that all address details that are used for the Equity calculations are obtained from the enrolment file. Some students do not have an enrolment record in their last year of study, so these will not be included in the calculations (reasons for not having an enrolment record may be: undertaking work experience, completing a thesis, research work without institution support or supervision, cross-institution study, repeated examinations -- all of which could mean that the student had no study in the year in which the course requirements were completed, hence there is no requirement for an enrolment file record).



Table 16.1b: Equity - Access Numbers for Domestic Undergraduate Students at Table A and B Institutions, 2009 to 2018

#### Access Numbers<sup>(4)</sup>

Western Sydney University 9.435 10.446 10.654 10.725 11.381 11.492 13.103 12.451 11.815 12.973 2.483 2.660 2.801 2.880 3.364 3.351 3.784 3.609 3.980 16 17 24 16 15 13 22 9

(a) For Socio-Economic Status measures, breaks in time series occur due to the use of updated Australian Census data in 2011 and 2016. For comparison purposes, where relevant, 2011 data has been reported using both the 2006 and 2011 Census reference data. Similarly, 2016 data has been reported using both the 2011 and 2016 Census reference data.

(c) Previously University of Ballarat



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[Table 16-2b: Equity - Access Rates for Domestic Undergraduate Students at Table A and B Institutions, 2009 to 2018](#)

**Table 16.2B: Equipment Access Rates<sup>(a)</sup>**

(a) For Socio-Economic Status measures, breaks in time series occur due to the use of updated Australian Census data in 2011 and 2016. For comparison purposes, where relevant, 2011 data has been reported using both the 2006 and 2011 Census reference data. Similarly, 2016 data has been reported using both the 2011 and 2016 Census reference data.

(a) For Socio-Economic Status measures, breaks in time series occur due to the use of updated Australian Census data in 2011 and 2010. 1001 completed purposes; where relevant, 2011 data has been reported using both the 2006 and 2011 Census reference data. Similarly, 2010 data has been reported using both the 2011 and 2010 Census reference data.

(c) Previously University of Ballarat.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680	681	682	683	684	685	686	687	688	689	690	691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700	701	702	703	704	705	706	707	708	709	710	711	712	713	714	715	716	717	718	719	720	721	722	723	724	725	726	727	728	729	730	731	732	733	734	735	736	737	738	739	740	741	742	743	744	745	746	747	748	749	750	751	752	753	754	755	756	757	758	759	760	761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	770	771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	780	781	782	783	784	785	786	787	788	789	790	791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799	800	801	802	803	804	805	806	807	808	809	8010	8011	8012	8013	8014	8015	8016	8017	8018	8019	8020	8021	8022	8023	8024	8025	8026	8027	8028	8029	8030	8031	8032	8033	8034	8035	8036	8037	8038	8039	8040	8041	8042	8043	8044	8045	8046	8047	8048	8049	8050	8051	8052	8053	8054	8055	8056	8057	8058	8059	8060	8061	8062	8063	8064	8065	8066	8067	8068	8069	8070	8071	8072	8073	8074	8075	8076	8077	8078	8079	8080	8081	8082	8083	8084	8085	8086	8087	8088	8089	80810	80811	80812	80813	80814	80815	80816	80817	80818	80819	80820	80821	80822	80823	80824	80825	80826	80827	80828	80829	80830	80831	80832	80833	80834	80835	80836	80837	80838	80839	80840	80841	80842	80843	80844	80845	80846	80847	80848	80849	80850	80851	80852	80853	80854	80855	80856	80857	80858	80859	80860	80861	80862	80863	80864	80865	80866	80867	80868	80869	80870	80871	80872	80873	80874	80875	80876	80877	80878	80879	80880	80881	80882	80883	80884	80885	80886	80887	80888	80889	808810	808811	808812	808813	808814	808815	808816	808817	808818	808819	808820	808821	808822	808823	808824	808825	808826	808827	808828	808829	808830	808831	808832	808833	808834	808835	808836	808837	808838	808839	808840	808841	808842	808843	808844	808845	808846	808847	808848	808849	808850	808851	808852	808853	808854	808855	808856	808857	808858	808859	808860	808861	808862	808863	808864	808865	808866	808867	808868	808869	808870	808871	808872	808873	808874	808875	808876	808877	808878	808879	808880	808881	808882	808883	808884	808885	808886	808887	808888	808889	8088810	8088811	8088812	8088813	8088814	8088815	8088816	8088817	8088818	8088819	8088820	8088821	8088822	8088823	8088824	8088825	8088826	8088827	8088828	8088829	8088830	8088831	8088832	8088833	8088834	8088835	8088836	8088837	8088838	8088839	8088840	8088841	8088842	8088843	8088844	8088845	8088846	8088847	8088848	8088849	8088850	8088851	8088852	8088853	8088854	8088855	8088856	8088857	8088858	8088859	8088860	8088861	8088862	8088863	8088864	8088865	8088866	8088867	8088868	8088869	8088870	8088871	8088872	8088873	8088874	8088875	8088876	8088877	8088878	8088879	8088880	8088881	8088882	8088883	8088884	8088885	8088886	8088887	8088888	8088889	80888810	80888811	80888812	80888813	80888814	80888815	80888816	80888817	80888818	80888819	80888820	80888821	80888822	80888823	80888824	80888825	80888826	80888827	80888828	80888829	80888830	80888831	80888832	80888833	80888834	80888835	80888836	80888837	80888838	80888839	80888840	80888841	80888842	80888843	80888844	80888845	80888846	80888847	80888848	80888849	80888850	80888851	80888852	80888853	80888854	80888855	80888856	80888857	80888858	80888859	80888860	80888861	80888862	80888863	80888864	80888865	80888866	80888867	80888868	80888869	80888870	80888871	80888872	80888873	80888874	80888875	80888876	80888877	80888878	80888879	80888880	80888881	80888882	80888883	80888884	80888885	80888886	80888887	80888888	80888889	808888810	808888811	808888812	808888813	808888814	808888815	808888816	808888817	808888818	808888819	808888820	808888821	808888822	808888823	808888824	808888825	808888826	808888827	808888828	808888829	808888830	808888831	808888832	808888833	808888834	808888835	808888836	80888





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Table 6.6-Equity: Success Rates for Domestic Students at Table A and B Institutions, 2008 to 2013



