

Question on Notice
No.1861
Asked on 24 November 2009

Mrs Sullivan asked the Minister for Education and Training (Mr Wilson) —

QUESTION:

Is the Minister aware of any trends for students seeking university places in Queensland next year?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for her question and her interest in the Bligh Government's vision for Tomorrow's Queensland.

I am pleased to advise that, as at mid-December, applications for tertiary study next year show a healthy trend.

Over 56,000 people have so far applied through the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) for places at universities and other tertiary institutions, representing an increase of 18 per cent compared to last year.

The biggest growth area for Semester 1 entry is in Society and Culture, which includes humanities, law and psychology. This is followed by Health, which includes Nursing (up 43 per cent), and other specialist health professions.

Architecture and building are up 13 per cent while information technology is up 11 per cent.

Most pleasing is the boost in applications for education courses which have jumped 22 per cent compared to last year.

It's encouraging to see more young Queenslanders seeking to take up one of the most rewarding jobs possible.

Teaching is undoubtedly a challenging profession but its effects are critical – teachers are helping shape Queensland's future.

The QTAC applications growth, if current trends are maintained, represents the largest rise in demand for higher education in Queensland for some years.

In September 2008, the Honourable Anna Bligh MP, Premier of Queensland outlined her Government's long-term vision for Queensland in Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland. Q2 creates bold targets that will drive our vision for a strong, green, smart, healthy and fair Queensland.

One of these goals is to have three out of four Queenslanders holding trade, training or tertiary qualifications by 2020.

The increases we are seeing here, along with a rise in the number of students undertaking VET in schools, and increased training and apprenticeship places supported by the Government, are a clear sign that we are on the road to reaching that goal.