

3 April 2025

Director – Budget Estimates Secretariat
NSW Parliament House
6 Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Director

Please find attached the Budget Estimates post-hearing responses in relation to the hearing on 10 March, 2024 for the portfolio of Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education (The Hon. Steven Whan MP).

Please find enclosed:

- answers to questions on notice
- answers to supplementary questions
- transcript corrections.

A hard copy will be delivered to your office shortly.

Yours sincerely

Distinguished Professor George Williams AO
Vice-Chancellor and President

Responses to supplementary questions

Portfolio Committee No. 3 – Education

Distinguished Professor George Williams AO
Vice Chancellor, Western Sydney University

What is the current enrolment at the Bankstown campus?

As at 17 Mar 2025, 3965 students were enrolled to study at Western Sydney University with Bankstown as their home program campus in 2025

How many of these students are international students?

Of those students, 502 are international students.

How many of the enrolled students at the Bankstown campus are:

- **Taught on site?**
- **Taught online?**

As at 17 March, 2025, 4,326 students are currently being taught onsite. 20 students are being taught offsite, with 665 being taught using a multi-modal approach.

Of the enrolled students at the Bankstown campus, please advise how many of the students reside in the following locations:

Western Sydney (as defined by Western Sydney University's Centre for Western Sydney)

Please provide a breakdown for each LGA from the Centre for Western Sydney's definition of Western Sydney LGAs.

As at 17 March 2025, 2,943 students that study at Bankstown CBD campus reside in Greater Western Sydney, specifically:

LGA (Permanent Home)	2025* as at 20250317
Canterbury-Bankstown	944
Liverpool	571
Fairfield	328
Cumberland	243
Wollondilly	192
Penrith	146
Blacktown	145
Campbelltown	138
Parramatta	70
Camden	67
The Hills	39
Hawkesbury	30
Blue Mountains	30

The rest of Metropolitan Sydney.

460 students that study at Bankstown CBD campus reside in the rest of Metropolitan Sydney.

Parts of NSW not in Greater Sydney.

53 students that study at Bankstown CBD campus reside in parts of NSW not in Greater Sydney.

How many staff and student parking spaces were available at the Milperra site?

Milperra Campus had 1,558 parking spaces available for University users and a further 33 disability/Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth) (DDA) compliant spaces. Access to Milperra Campus was restricted due to poor public transport connectivity which necessitated a large number of parking spaces. For a significant part of the calendar year, the carparks were under-utilised and the University's operating budget was used to fund ongoing maintenance.

How many staff and student parking spaces are currently available at the Bankstown campus?

Bankstown City Campus has 35 parking spaces available for University bookings and a further 4 disability/DDA complaint spaces. Due to proximity to public transport and services, demand for parking has been low.

What is the annual expenditure paid to Canterbury Bankstown Council for the site of the Bankstown campus?

Under the terms of the lease, the University pays the Council a peppercorn rent, unless more than 25% of the building is not occupied by the University or used for university purposes. The University's occupied space satisfies this requirement. The land is rateable and Council levy annual rates accordingly.

Has Western Sydney University sought written probity advice regarding its Bankstown campus and the rental and lease arrangements between the University and Canterbury-Bankstown Council, and the University and Walker Corporation?

Probity advisers were engaged to oversee the commercial negotiations with Walker Corporation with respect to the development agreements. Further, independent valuations were obtained and relevant subject matter experts were engaged throughout negotiations. Finally, the financial accounting treatment of the commercial structure has been reflected in the University's financial accounts and has been audited by the NSW Audit Office

What was the advice provided?

The probity report concludes that, based on the work performed and detailed within it, there are no indications that the University failed to conduct its assessment of the proposal with due regard to probity.

How many reasonable adjustments, accommodations and/or special considerations were applied for, in each calendar year from 2018?

Of these, how many were granted?

In 2024, Western Sydney University granted 644 reasonable adjustments to support students to access higher education.

Reasonable Adjustments	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
- New Academic Reasonable Adjustment Plans	648	706	537	540	488	531	560
- New Placement Reasonable Adjustment Plans	n/a	47	54	49	49	59	84

It is important to note that Western Sydney University does not collect data on the number of requests made for Academic and Placement Reasonable Adjustment Plans.

To request a Reasonable Adjustment Plan, students provide information through an Impact of Disability or Health Condition on Study form, which is completed by the student's treating medical practitioner. This is then discussed with a Disability Advisor to develop the adjustment plan. Through this process, it is rare that an Academic Reasonable Adjustment Plan or a Placement Reasonable Adjustment Plan would be declined.

In 2024, Western Sydney University approved 45,795 requests for special consideration, representing nearly 90% of all requests.

Special Considerations	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	R	A	R	A	R	A	R	A	R	A	R	A	R	A
- Disruption to Studies	21,445	n/a	23,821	n/a	16,940	n/a	6,917	n/a	7,005	4,449	10,318	6,660	15,684	14,108
- Request for Extension	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	10,804	n/a	47,212	n/a	52,539	n/a	32,820	29,628
- Deferred Exam	5,796	4,739	6,247	3,838	3,820	2,485	2,319	1,334	1,004	612	3,125	1,917	3,093	2,059

It should be noted that Western Sydney University has undertaken a process in recent years to transition from paper-based approaches and multi-platform based systems to ensure it is easier for students to request special consideration. As a result, some of the data was unable to be accurately collected relating to this supplementary question.