

## Budget Estimates 10 March portfolio of Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education (Whan)

### UNSW Questions on notice

Question. The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: Professor Brungs, can you please tell us what UNSW is doing to increase the number of students from low SES and other under-represented groups enrolling in and succeeding at university?

ATTILA BRUNGS: As I said to the other honourable member, we've got a plan for about five key pillars to try to increase our access to—the target is 25 per cent low SES, regional, remote and Indigenous students at UNSW. We're a long way down the target. I think this year we're hitting somewhere between 21 and 23, but I can give you the number on notice. The key to all those steps is not just to increase accessibility but to make sure all those students succeed, because we've got a very proud record at UNSW in that all of our students—and even those low-SES, regional, remote and Indigenous students—have essentially the same success rate and the same employability rate as all of our students, which is amongst the highest in the country. So it's not just about the access; it's about the success as well.

The whole part of that as well is that, from the university's perspective, it's not just about equity; it's about equity and excellence. If we enable all segments of society to access university education, both the university itself and society will be more excellent. Some of the things we're doing, for example, as you've heard from my other colleagues, is partnerships with schools. I'll take the number on notice, but we have in excess of 300 partnerships across the State and across the Greater Sydney area, where we go back into schools—back into year 11, 10, even 9—to make sure that we can both build capacity, appreciation and understanding of university so that the students have choice. From my perspective, it's choice. I'd love them to all come to UNSW, but I don't care if they go to UNSW or any of my colleagues or they go to TAFE—whatever they wish their lives and aspirations to be. Part of all our outreach is to build aspiration and then build the confidence that they can go to those aspirations.

### **Answer 1**

UNSW's YTD 2025, Gateway equity access rate is 23.2%, which builds on the 2024 Gateway Equity Target percentage achieved, which was 19.3%.

### **Answer 2**

UNSW has partnerships with 337 schools of which 70 are part of Gateway.