

Access to higher education in Victoria under the national demand-driven system

An analysis of 2007-2011 higher education applications, offers and enrolments drawn from the VTAC database

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Executive summary and key conclusions

Access to higher education has changed dramatically in Victoria as a direct result of the federal deregulation of the volume of undergraduate places. The uncapping of higher education places was proposed by the *Review of Australian Higher Education* in 2008 with the objectives of boosting participation rates and improving equity of access.

The findings of this study show that access to higher education in Victoria has opened up significantly, with large increases in the number of applications, offers and enrolments since 2007, the year before the uncapping was first foreshadowed. Demand has been strong. However, persistent imbalances remain in the socio-economic composition of higher education applicants and enrollees. Further, the disparities in access between urban and rural regions remain large and disparities between Melbourne's metropolitan regions continue to be profound.

The report shows that while deregulation did not begin until 2012, new patterns of application, offer and enrolment began quite soon after the federal government's response to the 2008 *Review of Australian Higher Education* committed to a timeline for deregulation by 2012. The report therefore uses 2007 as the baseline for comparison.

- The number of applicants in Victoria grew by 17% between 2007 and 2011. However, this relatively modest rise in applications was outstripped by the steep growth in number of offers, which climbed by 42%. By 2011, 14,000 additional offers were made by Victorian universities compared with the 2007 baseline.
- The most rapid growth in offers was between 2007 and 2009, soon after the foreshadowing of deregulation. This growth rate did not continue in 2010-2011. Demand dipped slightly in 2011 compared with the previous year but the number of offers continued to increase.
- The demand from prospective students for a higher education place in Victoria continues to exceed the number of places offered, despite the growth in offers outstripping the growth in number of applicants across 2007-2011.
- By 2011, applicants had a 75.9% chance of receiving an application, compared with 62.3% in 2007. The likelihood of receiving an offer increased markedly for applicants with ATARs below 60 across the 2007-2011 period. In 2011, applicants through VTAC with ATARs below 50 had a one in three likelihood of receiving an offer, compared with a one in five likelihood in 2007.
- Metropolitan campuses had the strongest appeal. The growth rates in the number of applicants, offers and enrolments were far higher for metropolitan campuses than for regional campuses. First preference applications for metropolitan campuses were 10 times greater than those for regional campuses. Offers grew by 43.1% for metropolitan campuses from 2007 to 2011, compared to 24.3% for regional campuses. However, applicants for regional campuses were more likely to receive offers than those for metropolitan campuses.
- In metropolitan Melbourne, the largest percentage growth rates in offers was made to applicants resident in in the Outer East, Inner South and South East (based on ABS Statistical Area Level 4 – see page 16 for a chart of the areas). These are metropolitan regions with generally strong participation in higher education in the past. Lower growth rates in offers were found for applicants from Melbourne's Inner, Inner East, North East, North West, and West areas.
- In regional Victoria, the highest growth in offers was for applicants resident in the ABS Statistical Area Level 4 areas of Ballarat, Bendigo, Warrnambool & South West and

Mornington Peninsula. The lowest rates of growth in offers were for applicants from Hume, North-West and Shepparton.

- The effects of deregulation on the socioeconomic composition of the student population have been modest though there has been an important rise in the share of applications and offers for the lowest socio-economic status (SES) quartile. The share of applications by low SES background students grew from 15.4% to 16.2% across 2007-2011; similarly, the share of offers grew from 13.6% to 14.8%. These figures remain well below the population parity point of approximately 22% for Victoria. The offer rates for low SES applicants grew from 55.1% to 69.5%. High SES applicants continue to have much higher offer rates, growing from 66.6% to 80.8% across the period of the study. In 2011, 36.7% of all offers were to high SES applicants.
- Deregulation has had little effect on gender imbalances in application and offer. In 2011, 36,001 females applied for higher education compared with 26,653 males — a massive difference of 9348 in the number of applications.
- Australian Catholic University, Deakin University and RMIT University had the highest growth in offers, with increases across the 2007-2011 period of 78%, 58% and 54% respectively. Victoria University (15%), the University of Ballarat (20%), and The University of Melbourne (29%) had the smallest growth in offers.
- Growth has been experienced in all fields of study, however this growth has been highly uneven. Education (71.6%), Health (61.9%) and Creative Arts (59.0%) have had the largest percentage increases over this period, with Architecture and Building (16.6%), Agriculture, Environmental and Related Sciences (22.5%) and Society and Culture (26.1%) having the lowest growth percentages.
- Applications and offers for Indigenous students have not grown in parallel with the overall rise in applications and offers. In fact, the number of applications by Indigenous people dropped between 2007 and 2011, including a large downturn in 2012. There has been a sustained and steady rise in offer rates for Indigenous applicants though these remain well below those for non-Indigenous applicants.
- Applicants from Independent schools continue to have considerably higher offer rates than those for applicants from Government or Catholic schools. However, the number of applications, offers and enrolments grew most steeply in the 2007-2011 period for school-leavers from Government schools. The number of additional enrolments by school-leavers from Government schools grew by well over 5000 between 2007 and 2011, from 10,103 to 15,305.

Access to higher education in Victoria under the national demand-driven system

1. Introduction

This report is based on the VTAC database on applications, offers and enrolments for Table A (publicly funded higher education) institutions in Victoria across the 2007-2011. Its purpose is to gauge the effects of the federal deregulation of the volume of undergraduate places, which commenced in 2012 after being proposed by the 2008 Review of Australian Higher Education. Applicants, for the purpose of the study, were restricted to residents of the state of Victoria (excluding international students) who applied directly through VTAC. The analysis therefore does not include people who have applied directly to institutions. VTAC processes about 80% of all applications and offers for these institutions.

The year 2007 has been chosen as the baseline reference point, for the 2007/08 application, selection and offer round preceded the strategic response of many Victorian universities to expand enrolments prior to funding for deregulated places becoming available in 2012.

2. Overall patterns of growth in applications, offers and enrolments

As a result of the deregulation policy, more Victorians have been encouraged to apply for higher education. Certainly they are more likely to receive offers. Demand for higher education has been strong, with the annual number of applicants growing by around 10,000 between 2007 and 2011, a 16.7% change over the period. In comparison, the annual offers grew by close to 14,000 over the period, representing a 42.4% overall change. There were 12,000 more enrolments in 2011 compared with 2007.

Despite the growth in the number of offers outstripping the growth in applications, demand has continued to exceed the supply of places.

The most rapid growth in applications and offers was in the 2007-2009 period, soon after the foreshadowing of deregulation. This growth did not continue in 2010-2011. This plateauing may be due to both demand-side and supply-side factors but it is not possible to determine these effects from the VTAC dataset. We note too that prior to 2011, VTAC included applications in the dataset for which no fee payment had been made but this practice was discontinued in 2011—the overall effect being a reduction in the apparent number of applicants. This policy change may only have had a modest effect on offer patterns.

The number of withdrawals, deferrals and rejections showed some modest variation from year to year, but remained relatively flat from 2007 to 2011. These factors have led to an overall strong and sustained increase in students enrolled in tertiary study (an increase of roughly 12,000 enrolments between 2007 and 2011).

Figure 2.1 Overall growth patterns

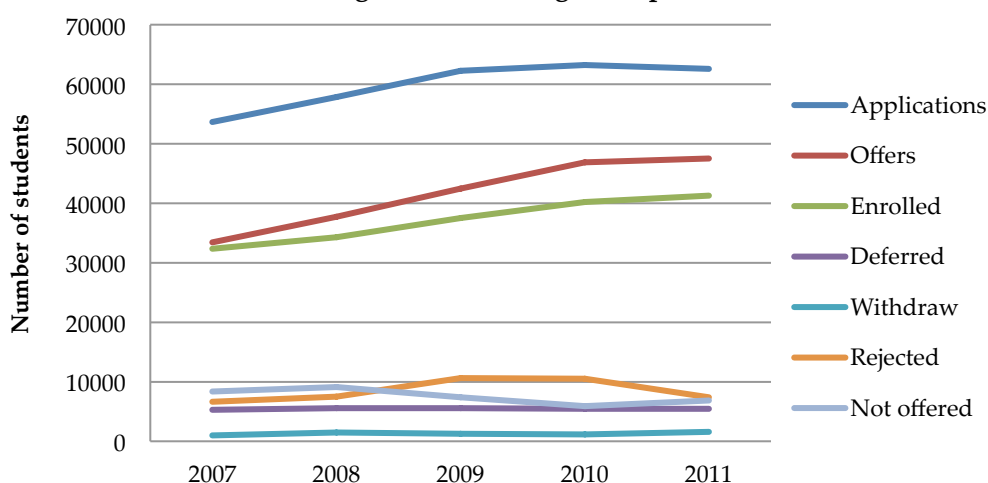
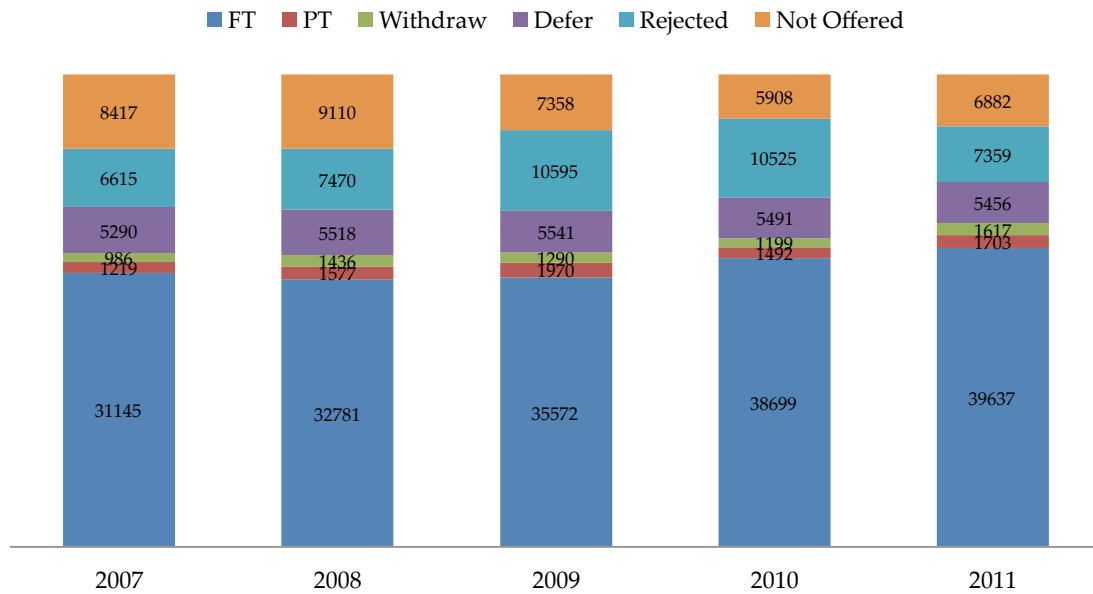


Figure 2.2: Outcomes**Table 2.1: Application, Offer and Enrolment Numbers and Offer Rates**

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Applications	53672	57892	62332	63314	62654
Offers	33411	37767	42539	46912	47572
Enrolments	24658	27827	31142	34443	36593
Offer Rate (%)	62.3	65.2	68.2	74.1	75.9

Table 2.2: Change in Application and Offer Rates

	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	07/11
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Application Rate Change	7.9	7.7	1.6	-1	16.7
Offer Rate Change	13	12.6	10.3	1.4	42.4

3. The universities

Institutional growth patterns differed markedly across the 2007-2011 period, with Australian Catholic University, Deakin, Monash and RMIT having the highest percentage growth rates in offers.

All institutions increased their number of offers over the 2007 baseline figures, though only three experienced sustained and relatively steady growth over the period of study. For a number of institutions the number of offers plateaued or shrank during the last 2-3 years, especially those with lower growth overall.

Australian Catholic University's overall application growth far exceeded all other Table A institutions with 77.8% growth between 2007-2011. Deakin University and RMIT followed with overall application growth of 58.4% and 54.2% respectively.

Over the period of study, first preference applications grew at a far greater rate at the Australian Catholic University (84.6% overall) and the University of Melbourne (55.7% overall).

Overall, institutions' percentage share of applications, offers and enrolments did not change more than 3% between universities, with Deakin University and RMIT increasing their percentage share the most over the period of the study (Figure 3.4).

Figure 3.1: Offers, by Institutions with Higher Offer Growth Rates

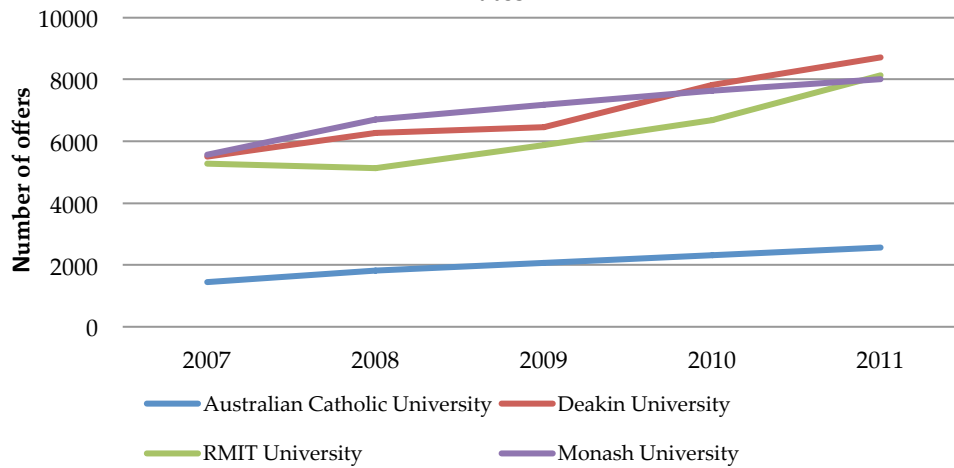


Figure 3.2: Offers, by Institutions with Lower Offer Growth Rates

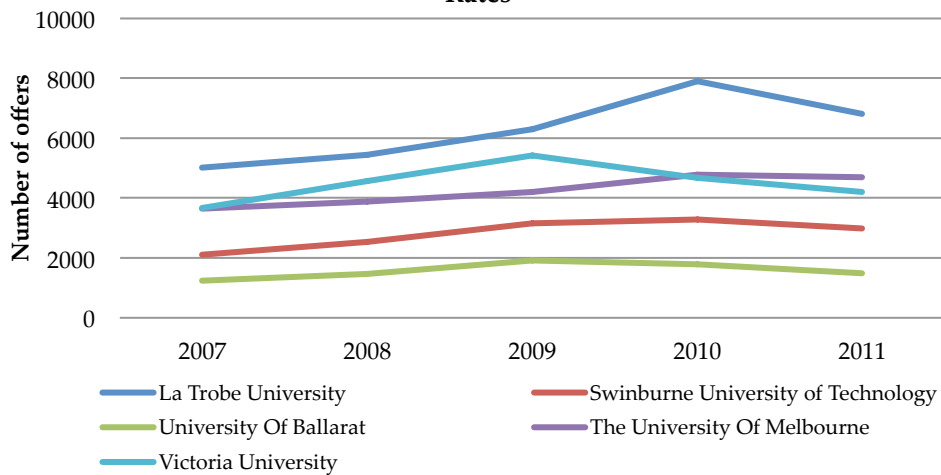


Figure 3.3: Overall percentage increase in applications, offers and enrolments 2007-2011 by Institution

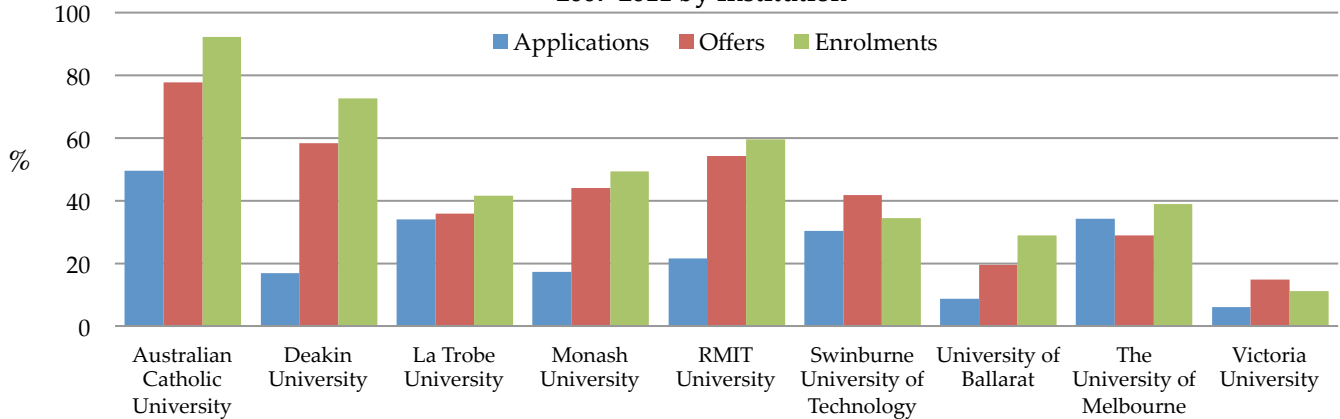


Figure 3.4: Percentage share, by Institution

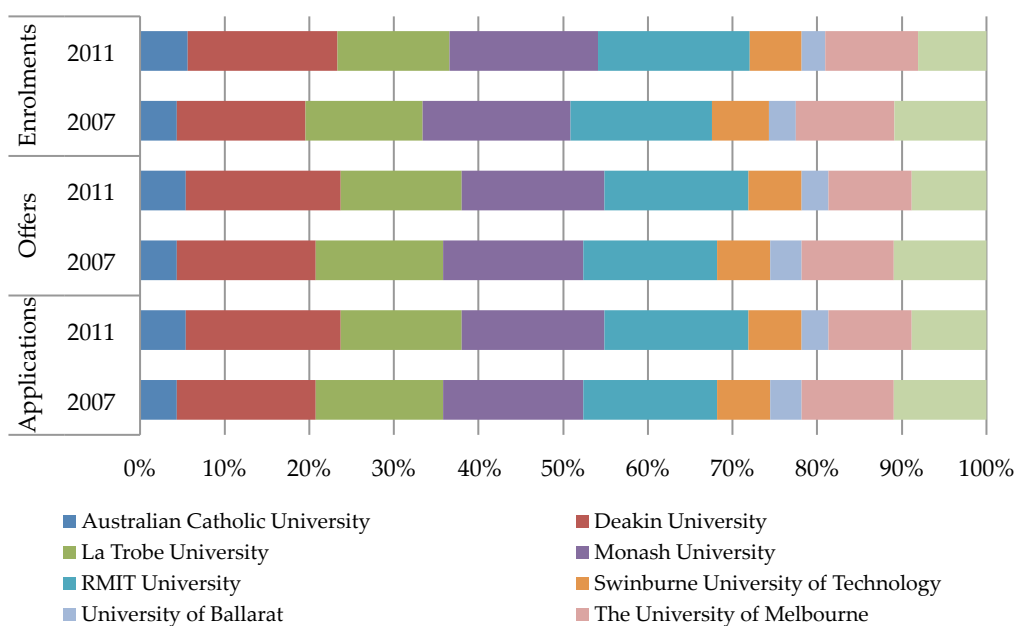


Table 3.1: % Change First Preference Applications

	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	07/11
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Australian Catholic University	40.9	19.8	0.1	9.4	84.6
Deakin University	13.3	11.7	-1.4	-0.1	24.7
La Trobe University	7.7	12.0	10.6	-1.2	31.8
Monash University	11.8	17.7	2.2	-7.3	24.7
RMIT University	17.6	3.8	5.9	5.0	35.7
Swinburne University of Technology	6.6	6.4	11.0	-10.7	12.4
The University of Melbourne	8.3	9.2	12.6	16.9	55.7
University of Ballarat	10.5	6.3	4.1	-14.9	4.0
Victoria University	1.5	6.5	-3.1	-2.4	2.4

Table 3.2: Applications, by Institutions¹

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	% increase 2007-2011
	(n)	(n)	(n)	(n)	(n)	(%)
Australian Catholic University	8891	10741	12661	13054	13305	49.6
Deakin University	26648	29505	31840	31203	31164	16.9
RMIT University	19735	21392	23167	25488	26453	34.0
Monash University	24359	26417	29137	29714	28585	17.3
Swinburne University of Technology	24809	29054	29771	30786	30151	21.5
La Trobe University	10915	12111	13555	14792	14223	30.3
The University of Melbourne	4424	4939	5566	5492	4806	8.6
University of Ballarat	12031	13291	13970	14854	16156	34.3
Victoria University	16376	17717	19264	18699	17352	6.0

¹ Calculations based on all applications to the Institution i.e. one applicant can allocate up to 13 preferences, each counted as one application.

Table 3.3: Offers, by Institutions	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	% increase 2007-2011
	(n)	(n)	(n)	(n)	(n)	(%)
Australian Catholic University	1443	1808	2065	2323	2565	77.8
Deakin University	5501	6259	6454	7822	8713	58.4
La Trobe University	5008	5437	6292	7902	6808	35.9
Monash University	5556	6694	7182	7639	8005	44.1
RMIT University	5264	5127	5869	6688	8119	54.2
Swinburne University of Technology	2104	2533	3142	3286	2983	41.8
University of Ballarat	1239	1465	1917	1780	1482	19.6
University of Melbourne	3637	3887	4198	4789	4691	29.0
Victoria University	3659	4557	5414	4683	4206	14.9

Table 3.4: Enrolments, by Institutions	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	% increase 2007-2011
	(n)	(n)	(n)	(n)	(n)	(%)
Australian Catholic University	1070	1459	1592	1849	2058	92.3
Deakin University	3748	4210	4649	5734	6474	72.7
La Trobe University	3419	3602	4246	4603	4844	41.7
Monash University	4304	5327	5635	6202	6432	49.4
RMIT University	4116	4003	4717	5469	6564	59.5
Swinburne University of Technology	1660	1978	2399	2503	2232	34.5
University of Ballarat	789	868	984	1088	1018	29.0
University of Melbourne	2879	3148	3448	4085	4002	39.0
Victoria University	2673	3232	3472	2910	2969	11.1

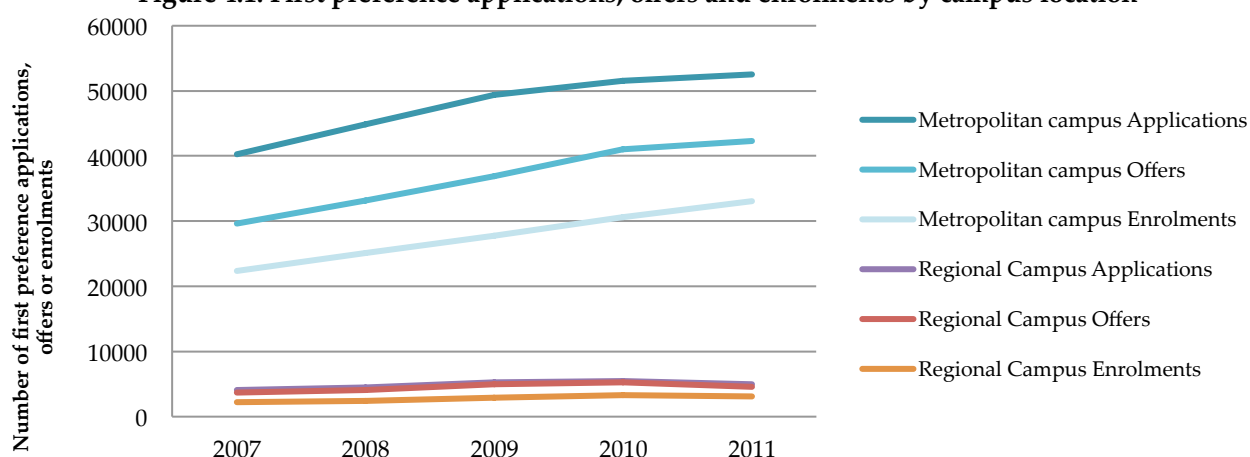
4. Campus location

The growth rates in applicants, offers and enrolments were far higher for metropolitan campuses than for regional campuses. However, applicants for regional campuses were more likely to receive offers than those for metropolitan campuses.

To conduct the analysis by campus location we classified Victorian campuses according to whether they are metropolitan or regional². We also included an 'off-campus' category. In Victoria, there were 44 campuses of the nine Table A universities that have been in operation during the 2007-2011 period. Using our classification, 32 were metropolitan campuses and 12 were regional campuses (to which is added one off-campus category).

² As determined by the MCEETYA index, used by DIISRTE to determine geographical location by postcode.

Figure 4.1: First preference applications, offers and enrolments by campus location



	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	% increase 2007-2011
	(n)	(n)	(n)	(n)	(n)	(%)
Metropolitan campuses	40259	44804	49414	51525	52507	30.4
Regional campuses	4075	4514	5258	5494	4935	21.1
Off-campus	142	591	616	678	628	342.3

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	% increase 2007-2011
	(n)	(n)	(n)	(n)	(n)	(%)
Metropolitan campuses	29583	33208	36883	40996	42331	43.1
Regional campuses	3685	4057	4972	5235	4581	24.3
Off-campus	100	432	577	624	600	83.3

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	% increase 2007-2011
	(n)	(n)	(n)	(n)	(n)	(%)
Metropolitan campuses	22349	25078	27776	30648	33049	47.9
Regional campuses	2210	2419	2884	3335	3078	39.3
Off-campus	71	286	419	421	419	490.1

5. Field of study

Growth has been experienced in all fields of study over 2007 baseline offers, however this growth has been highly uneven across the fields. Education (71.6%), Health (61.9%) and Creative Arts (59.0%) have had the largest percentage increases over this period, with Architecture and Building (16.6%), Agriculture, Environmental and Related Sciences (22.5%) and Society and Culture (26.1%) experiencing the lowest growth over the period of study.

³ First preference applications have been used in this instance in order to indicate where applicants preferred to attend university.

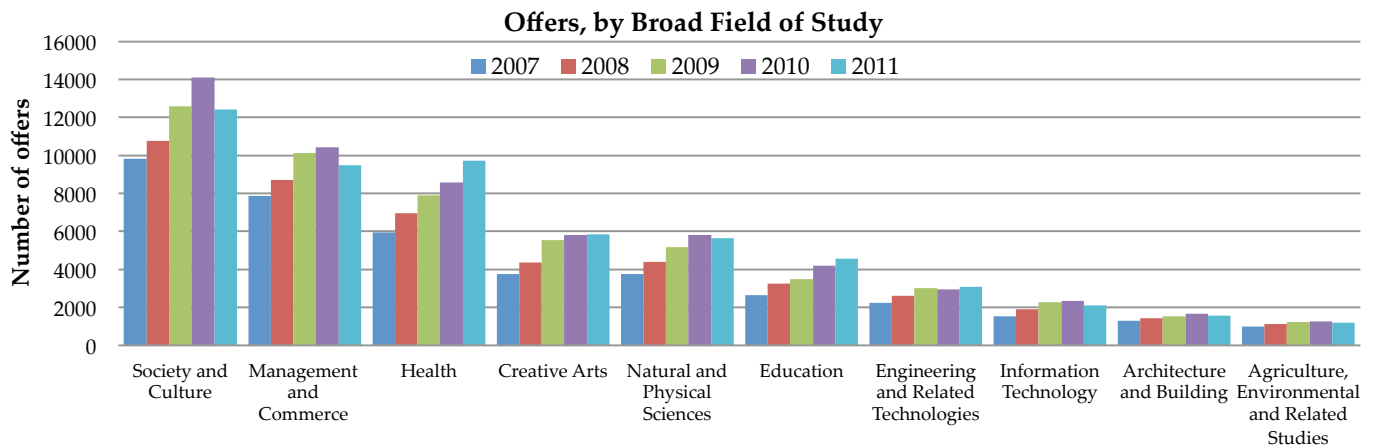


Figure 5.2: Offers, by Broad Field of Study with Highest Baseline Offers (2007)

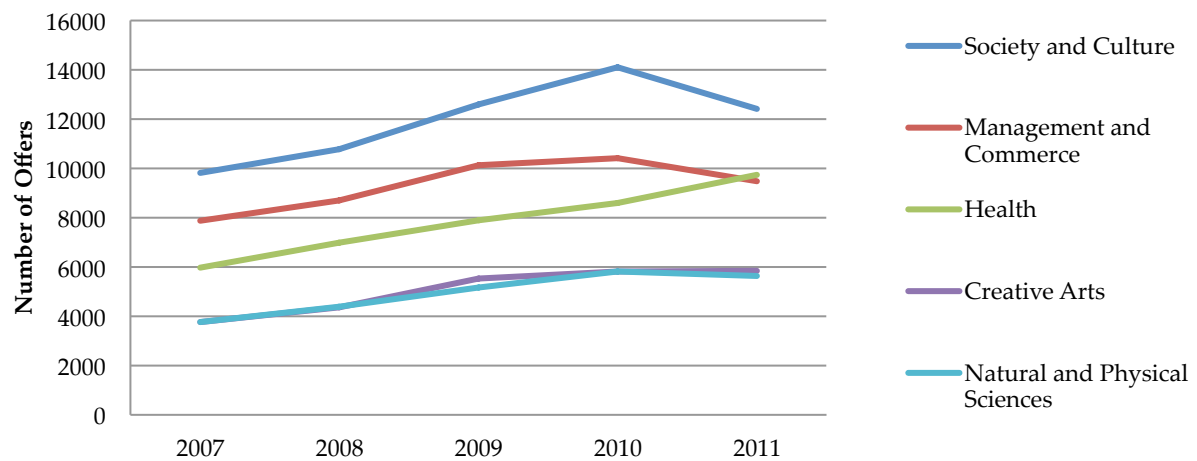
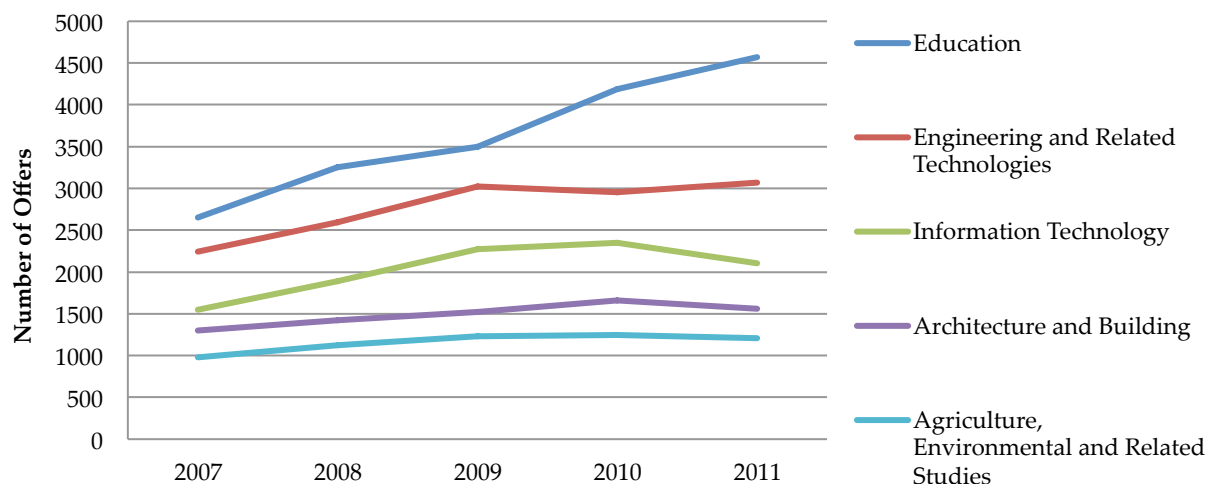


Figure 5.3: Offers, by Broad Fields of Study with Lowest Baseline Offers (2007)



The changes in the number of offers made for particular fields of study has not closely matched the changes in first preference applications. While the largest growth in offers has been in Education, Health and Creative Arts over the period of study, more applicants have first preferences in Natural and Physical Sciences,

Health and Information Technology. The growth in Education offers is explained through the considerable increase in overall applications (72.4%) and a relatively high offer rate of close to 40%.

Table 5.1: % Change in First Preference Applications	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	07/11
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Natural and Physical Sciences	21.2	20.5	12.5	7.7	77.0
Health	13.8	20.4	8.5	-0.1	48.5
Information Technology	26.6	8.2	6.8	-5.3	38.6
Engineering and Related Technologies	24.3	7.8	3.0	-0.7	37.0
Creative Arts	10.7	16.1	5.5	-2.9	31.7
Education	10.5	9.7	2.9	2.6	27.9
Architecture and Building	15.9	11.2	-1.6	-5.3	20.1
Society and Culture	12.1	8.5	0.0	-3.8	17.1
Agriculture, Environmental and Related Sciences	9.8	3.0	8.6	-5.5	16.1
Management and Commerce	8.6	0.5	4.2	-0.7	13.0

Table 5.2: Applications, by Broad Field of Study	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	% increase 2007-2011
	(n)	(n)	(n)	(n)	(n)	(%)
Natural and Physical Sciences	3754	4393	5159	5824	5639	50.2
Information Technology	1548	1891	2274	2349	2101	35.7
Engineering and Related Technologies	2243	2596	3022	2956	3072	37.0
Architecture and Building	1298	1419	1521	1662	1558	20.0
Agriculture, Environmental and Related Science	979	1125	1229	1247	1207	23.3
Health	5961	6973	7896	8587	9726	63.2
Education	2651	3254	3494	4183	4569	72.4
Management and Commerce	7875	8708	10116	10425	9490	20.5
Society and Culture	9811	10776	12593	14096	12410	26.5
Creative Arts	3759	4361	5533	5821	5852	55.7

Table 5.3: Offers, by Broad Field of Study	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	% increase 2007-2011
	(n)	(n)	(n)	(n)	(n)	(%)
Education	2651	3254	3494	4183	4569	71.6
Health	5961	6973	7896	8587	9726	61.9
Creative Arts	3759	4361	5533	5821	5852	59.0
Natural and Physical Sciences	3754	4393	5159	5824	5639	53.2
Engineering and Related Technologies	2243	2596	3022	2956	3072	46.2
Information Technology	1548	1891	2274	2349	2101	31.8
Management and Commerce	7875	8708	10116	10425	9490	29.2
Society and Culture	9811	10776	12593	14096	12410	26.1
Agriculture, Environmental and Related Science	979	1125	1229	1247	1207	22.5
Architecture and Building	1298	1419	1521	1662	1558	16.6

Table: 5.4: Enrolments, by Broad Field of Study	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	% increase 2007-2011
	(n)	(n)	(n)	(n)	(n)	(%)
Natural and Physical Sciences	2684	3190	3678	4397	4406	64.2
Information Technology	993	1135	1296	1429	1332	34.1
Engineering and Related Technologies	1332	1510	1731	1844	2073	55.6
Architecture and Building	592	572	622	669	701	18.4
Agriculture, Environmental and Related S	589	673	698	746	747	26.8
Health	3973	4612	5189	5807	6697	68.6
Education	1820	2299	2397	3080	3348	84.0
Management and Commerce	4746	5077	5498	5910	6217	31.0
Society and Culture	6002	6584	7461	7765	8010	33.5
Creative Arts	1911	2134	2519	2791	3058	60.0

Table 5.5: Offer Rates, by Broad Field of Study	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Natural and Physical Sciences	34.8	36.1	38.9	40.1	37.4
Information Technology	27.5	27.7	31.4	34.7	32.8
Engineering and Related Technologies	31.1	30.5	32.6	33.8	37.1
Architecture & Building	20.6	17.5	17.7	18.9	20.3
Agriculture, Environmental and Related Science	22.5	23.1	24.1	21.1	21.3
Health	35.2	37.6	37.1	37.9	43.3
Education	28.0	32.8	31.7	38.5	39.5
Management and Commerce	32.7	32.4	35.1	36.4	38.1
Society and Culture	33.5	33.0	35.2	36.4	37.4
Creative Arts	22.8	23.8	26.6	26.4	29.9

6. Regions

The tables and figures to follow present a preliminary analysis of applications, offers and enrolments by the region of residency of applicants. The regional breakdown is based on the ABS measure, Statistical Area Level 4 (SA4). The SA4 for Victoria are shown on the following page (SA4s are designed to reflect labour markets, whereby the labour force data from any particular SA4 is likely to be more relevant to where people live and where people work.)

The regional analysis highlights not only the marked disparities between metropolitan and regional areas of Victoria but also the disparities between metropolitan regions and between regional areas in patterns of demand for and access to higher education. Further analysis will be undertaken to examine whether these patterns of change and difference are explained by population changes (in particularly, northern and western rural region depopulation).

In metropolitan Melbourne, the largest percentage growth rates in offers were made to applicants resident in the Outer East, Inner South and South East metropolitan regions with generally strong participation in higher education in the past. Lower growth rates in offers were found for applicants from Melbourne's Inner, Inner East, North East, North West, and West areas.

In regional Victoria, the highest growth in offers was for applicants resident in the ABS Statistical Area Level 4 areas of Ballarat, Bendigo, Warrnambool & South West and Mornington Peninsula. The lowest rates of growth in offers were for applicants from Hume, North-West and Shepparton.



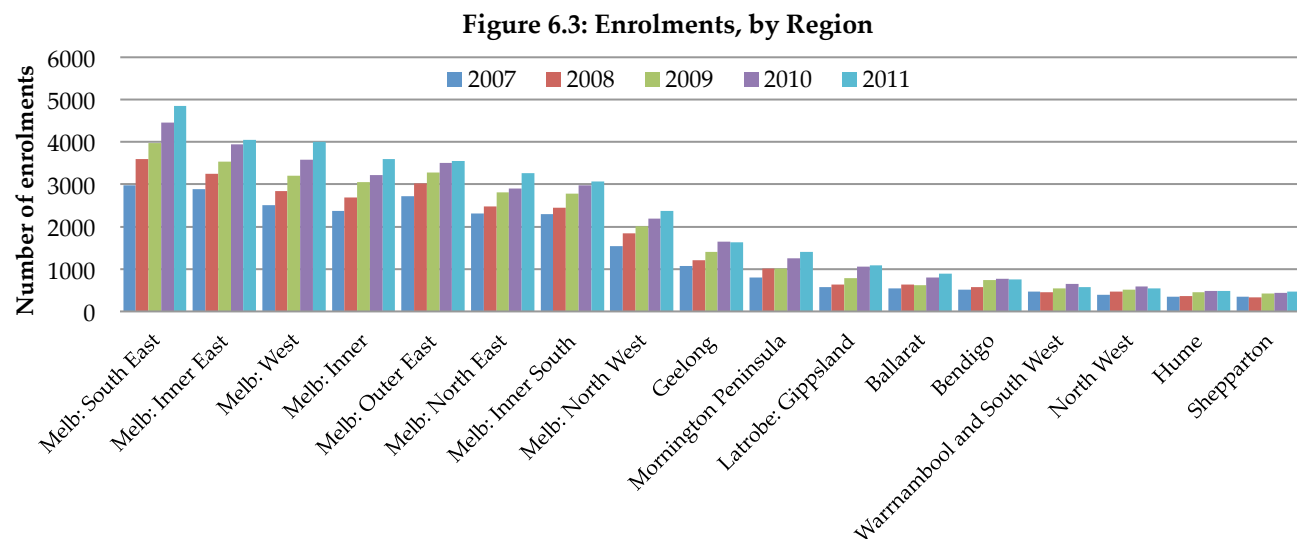
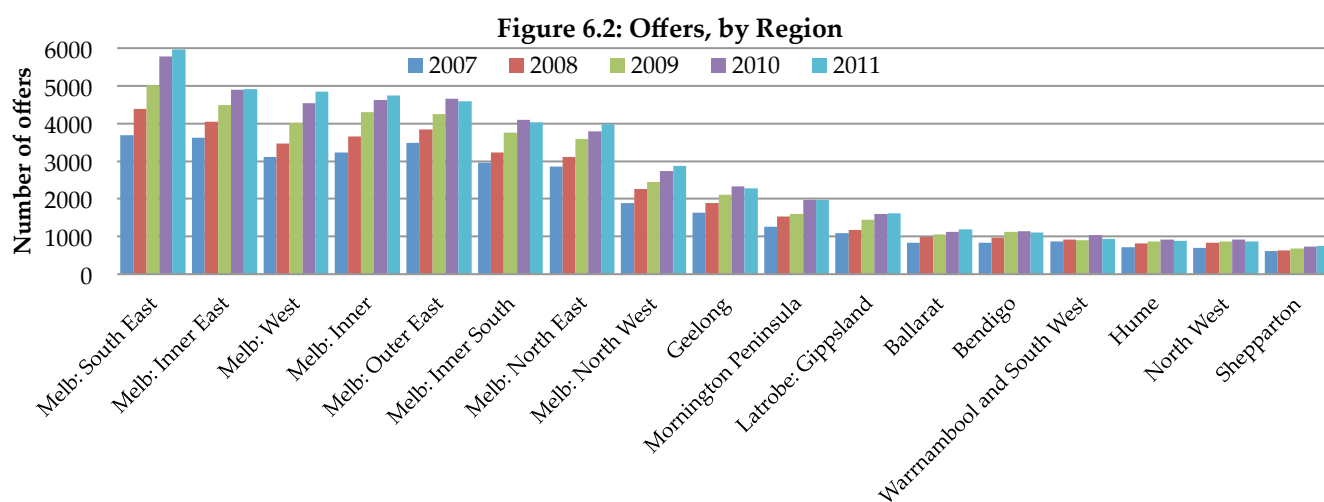
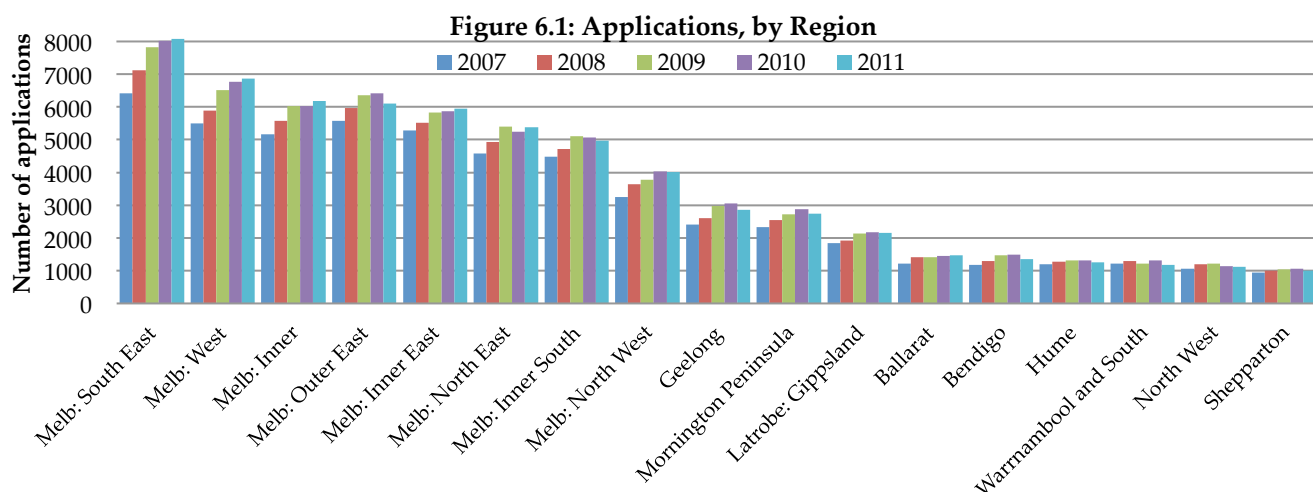


Table 6.1: Applications by region	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	% increase 2007-2011
Melb: South East	6427	7125	7819	8029	8075	19.9
Melb: West	5497	5887	6518	6776	6861	15.9
Melb: Inner	5168	5576	6022	6018	6181	18.7
Melb: Outer East	5585	5972	6365	6427	6102	5.4
Melb: Inner East	5287	5520	5833	5865	5941	16.0
Melb: North East	4578	4935	5392	5235	5372	19.6
Melb: Inner South	4482	4719	5112	5065	4978	12.4
Melb: North West	3244	3639	3780	4033	4013	11.1
Geelong	2409	2608	2975	3056	2860	17.3
Mornington Peninsula	2338	2541	2720	2872	2743	23.7
Latrobe: Gippsland	1851	1912	2137	2172	2147	9.3
Ballarat	1224	1419	1413	1452	1468	25.6
Bendigo	1169	1298	1465	1491	1355	24.8
Hume	1195	1268	1314	1305	1260	17.3
Warrnambool and South West	1216	1288	1221	1321	1176	4.7
North West	1064	1188	1208	1144	1114	7.5
Shepparton	938	997	1032	1053	1008	-3.3

Table 6.2: Offers by region	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	% increase 2007-2011
Melb: South East	3695	4387	5025	5784	5967	42.9
Melb: Inner East	3628	4044	4487	4891	4911	33.7
Melb: West	3110	3470	4007	4546	4850	39.4
Melb: Inner	3227	3654	4297	4628	4751	23.2
Melb: Outer East	3492	3852	4256	4661	4591	48.8
Melb: Inner South	2959	3234	3767	4096	4037	47.2
Melb: North East	2859	3106	3582	3787	3980	35.4
Melb: North West	1886	2259	2453	2739	2872	36.4
Geelong	1633	1893	2118	2337	2276	39.2
Mornington Peninsula	1259	1525	1604	1970	1968	52.3
Latrobe: Gippsland	1083	1180	1446	1605	1611	31.5
Ballarat	837	994	1053	1118	1196	61.5
Bendigo	830	977	1117	1149	1110	55.9
Warrnambool and South West	874	912	905	1043	939	56.3
Hume	724	812	873	914	892	24.6
North West	703	840	864	915	876	21.7
Shepparton	612	628	679	729	745	7.4

Table 6.3: Enrolments by region	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	% increase 2007-2011
Melb: South East	2981	3590	3968	4461	4855	42.9
Melb: Inner East	2890	3240	3539	3935	4047	33.7
Melb: West	2512	2837	3201	3581	3995	39.4
Melb: Inner	2371	2688	3057	3223	3598	23.2
Melb: Outer East	2711	3022	3280	3500	3556	48.8
Melb: North East	2306	2482	2816	2898	3269	47.2
Melb: Inner South	2289	2443	2779	2969	3064	35.4
Melb: North West	1538	1848	2006	2193	2366	36.4
Geelong	1075	1212	1401	1644	1632	39.2
Mornington Peninsula	798	1010	1015	1252	1402	52.3
Latrobe: Gippsland	578	632	786	1061	1092	31.5
Ballarat	544	631	624	795	889	61.5
Bendigo	506	576	736	766	761	55.9
Warrnambool and South West	463	448	546	655	568	56.3
North West	396	469	510	583	539	24.6
Hume	346	362	452	484	490	21.7
Shepparton	354	337	426	443	470	7.4

7. Socio-economic status

Improving the equity of access to higher education is a national priority. Broadly, people from the highest socio-economic quartile in Victoria remain twice as likely to apply for a university place than those in the lowest quartile, with correspondingly higher numbers of offers and enrolments. However, there has been a small but significant narrowing of this large gap during the 2007 to 2011 period.

During 2007-2011 there was an increase in the percentage share of applicants from the lowest SES quartile with corresponding — and slightly larger — increases in the share of offers and enrolments. The shares for the two middle quartiles have remain largely unchanged and have dropped slightly for the high SES quartile. This growth pattern is illustrated further in the percentage change in applications, where over the period of study the low SES quartile has seen the most growth and the high SES quartile has experienced the least. While growth in offers overall has been quite substantial, it is notable that the five-year growth in the lowest three quartiles has been strong. This may be because offer levels for the high SES quartile, at 80%, may be nearing saturation on present entry standard expectations. Offer rates for all quartiles have risen markedly (Table 7.1) however the two lowest SES quartiles have offer rates much lower than the two highest SES quartiles, a pattern that is most likely due to differences in level of school achievement.

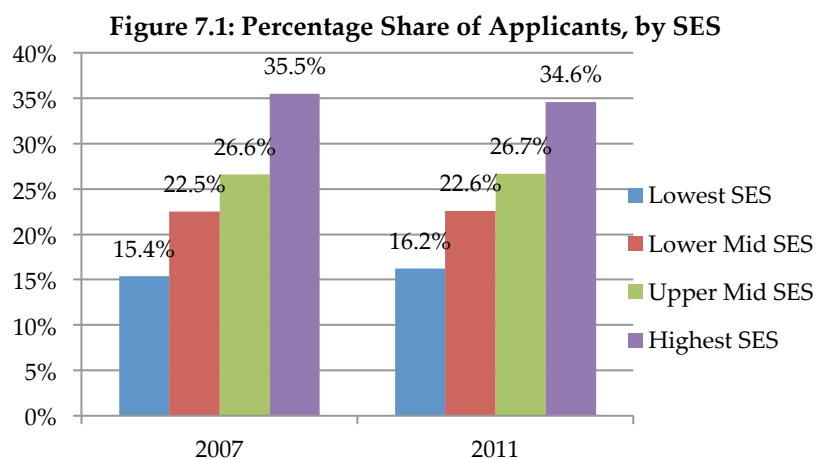


Figure 7.2: Percentage Share of Offers, by SES

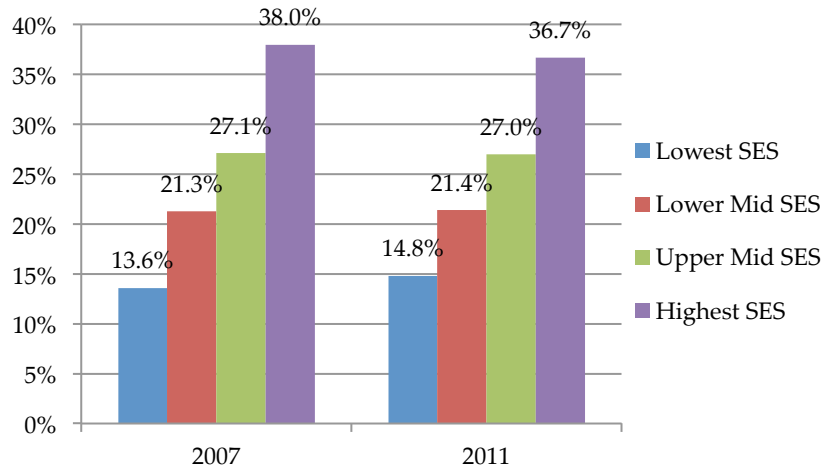


Figure 7.3: Percentage Share of Enrolments, by SES



Figure 7.4 Offer Rates, by SES Quartile

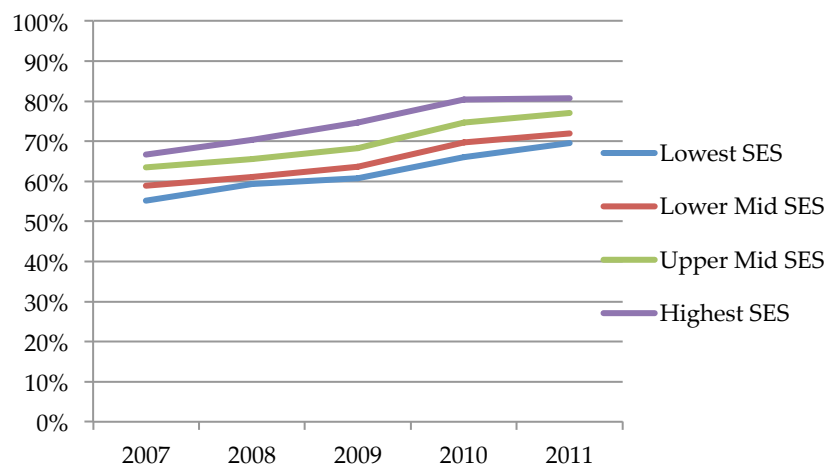


Table 7.1: Offer Rates, by SES Quartiles	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Lowest SES	55.1	59.3	60.7	66	69.5
Lower Mid SES	58.9	61.1	63.6	69.7	71.9
Upper Mid SES	63.4	65.6	68.3	74.7	77.0
Highest SES	66.6	70.3	74.7	80.4	80.8

Table 7.2: Percentage Share of Applications, by SES quartile	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Lowest SES	15.4	15.8	15.8	16.3	16.2
Lower Mid SES	22.5	22.6	22.6	22.9	22.6
Upper Mid SES	26.6	26.8	26.8	26.7	26.7
Highest SES	35.5	34.8	34.8	34.1	34.6
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100

Table 7.3: Percentage Share of Offers, by SES quartile	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Lowest SES	13.6	14.4	14.1	14.5	14.8
Lower Mid SES	21.3	21.2	21.1	21.5	21.4
Upper Mid SES	27.1	26.9	26.8	26.9	27
Highest SES	38	37.5	38.1	37	36.7
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100

Table 7.4: Percentage Share of Enrolments, by SES quartile	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Lowest SES	13.4	14.0	13.8	14.5	14.9
Lower Mid SES	20.4	20.6	20.7	21.3	21.0
Upper Mid SES	27.0	26.5	26.5	26.8	26.9
Highest SES	39.3	39.0	39.0	37.4	37.2
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100

Table 7.5: Applications, by SES Quartiles	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	% increase 2007-2011
	(n)	(n)	(n)	(n)	(n)	(%)
Lowest SES	8271	9135	9856	10336	10141	22.6
Lower Mid SES	12060	13094	14084	14476	14165	17.5
Upper Mid SES	14273	15493	16690	16907	16700	17
Highest SES	19068	20170	21696	21595	21648	13.5

Table 7.6: Offers, by SES Quartiles	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	% increase 2007-2011
	(n)	(n)	(n)	(n)	(n)	(%)
Lowest SES	4556	5421	5981	6825	7046	54.7
Lower Mid SES	7109	7996	8958	10084	10191	43.4
Upper Mid SES	9046	10171	11391	12631	12853	42.1
Highest SES	12700	14179	16203	17372	17482	37.7

Table 7.7: Enrolments, by SES Quartiles	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	% increase 2007-2011
	(n)	(n)	(n)	(n)	(n)	(%)
Lowest SES	3299	3888	4295	4991	5445	65.1
Lower Mid SES	5020	5719	6431	7338	7690	53.2
Upper Mid SES	6647	7363	8268	9231	9845	48.1
Highest SES	9692	10857	12148	12883	13613	40.5

8. Indigenous Applicants

Applications and offers for Indigenous applicants in Victoria have not grown in parallel with the overall rise in applications and offers. In fact, the annual number of applications by Indigenous people dropped between 2007 and 2011, including a large downturn in 2012. There has, however, been a sustained and steady rise in the offer rates for Indigenous applicants (Table 8.5) though these continue to be well below those for non-Indigenous applicants.

In Australia, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples make up 2.5% of the total population. In Victoria, this percentage is far lower and estimated to be 0.7% of the population⁴. From 2007, the share of Indigenous applicants enrolling in undergraduate tertiary education has fallen from 0.5% to 0.3% in 2011 (Table 8.1).

Figure 8.1: Applications, Offers and Enrolments by Indigenous Applicants

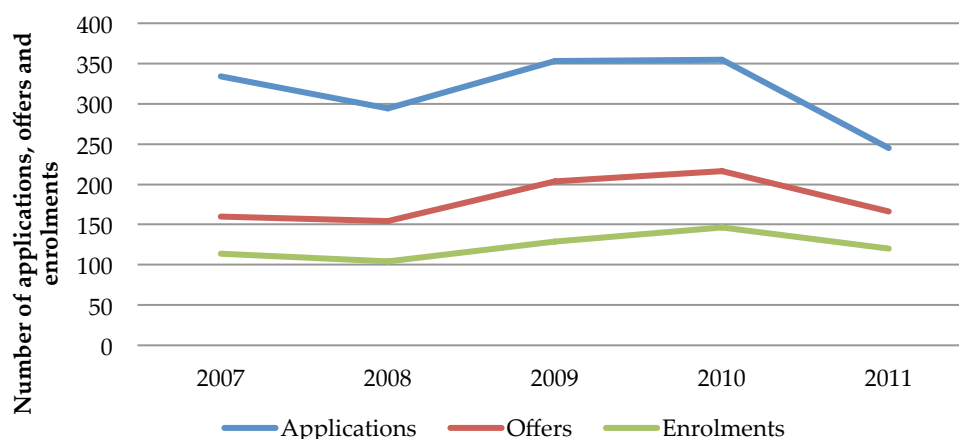


Table 8.1 Percentage Share of Enrolments	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Non-Indigenous	99.5	99.6	99.6	99.6	99.7
Indigenous	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3

Table 8.2: Indigenous Applicants	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	% increase 2007-2011
	(n)	(n)	(n)	(n)	(n)	(%)
Non-Indigenous	53338	57598	61973	62959	62409	17
Indigenous	334	294	353	355	245	-26.6

⁴ According to ABS statistics, 2011 Census data
<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/2075.0main+features32011>

Table 8.2: Indigenous Student Offers	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	% increase 2007-2011
	(n)	(n)	(n)	(n)	(n)	(%)
Non-Indigenous	33251	37613	42329	46696	47406	42.6
Indigenous	160	154	204	216	166	3.7

Table 8.4 Indigenous Student Enrolments	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	% increase 2007-2011
	(n)	(n)	(n)	(n)	(n)	(%)
Non-Indigenous	24544	27723	31013	34297	36473	48.6
Indigenous	114	104	129	146	120	5.3

Table 7.5 Indigenous Student Offer Rates	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Non-Indigenous	62.3	65.3	68.3	74.2	76
Indigenous	47.9	52.4	57.8	60.8	67.8

9. Gender

Applications, offers and enrolments for males grew at a slightly higher rate than those for females between 2007-2011, however this has done little to alter the gender imbalances in participation in higher education in Victoria. In 2011, 36,001 females applied for a higher education place compared with 26,653 males, a difference overall of 9348. Offer rates continue to be slightly higher for females, however the offer rate for males grew faster than for females across the 2007-2011 period (45.1% compared with 40.5%).

Figure 9.1: Applications, Offers and Enrolments by Gender

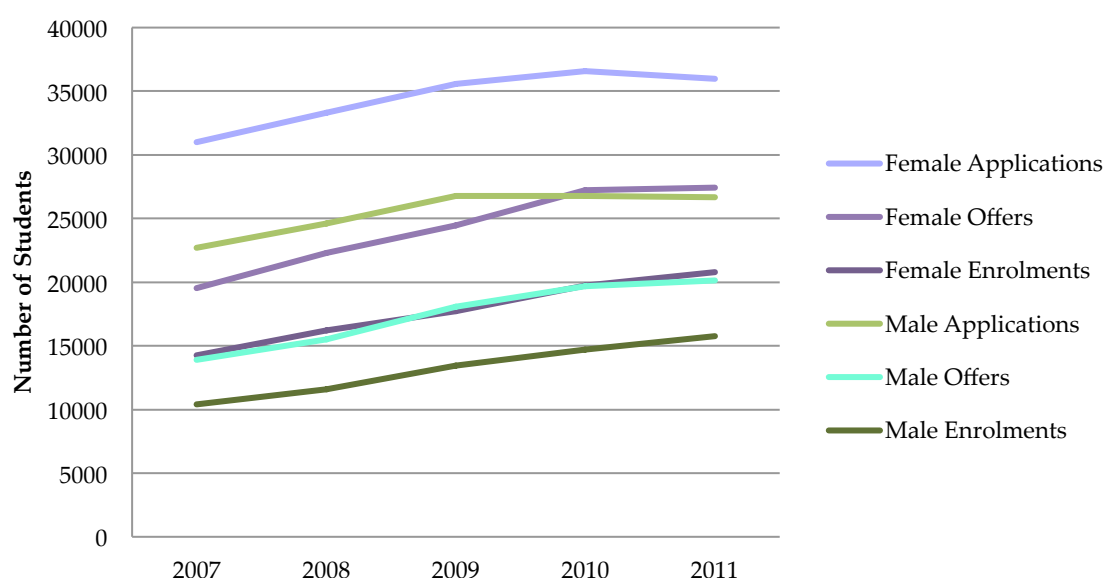
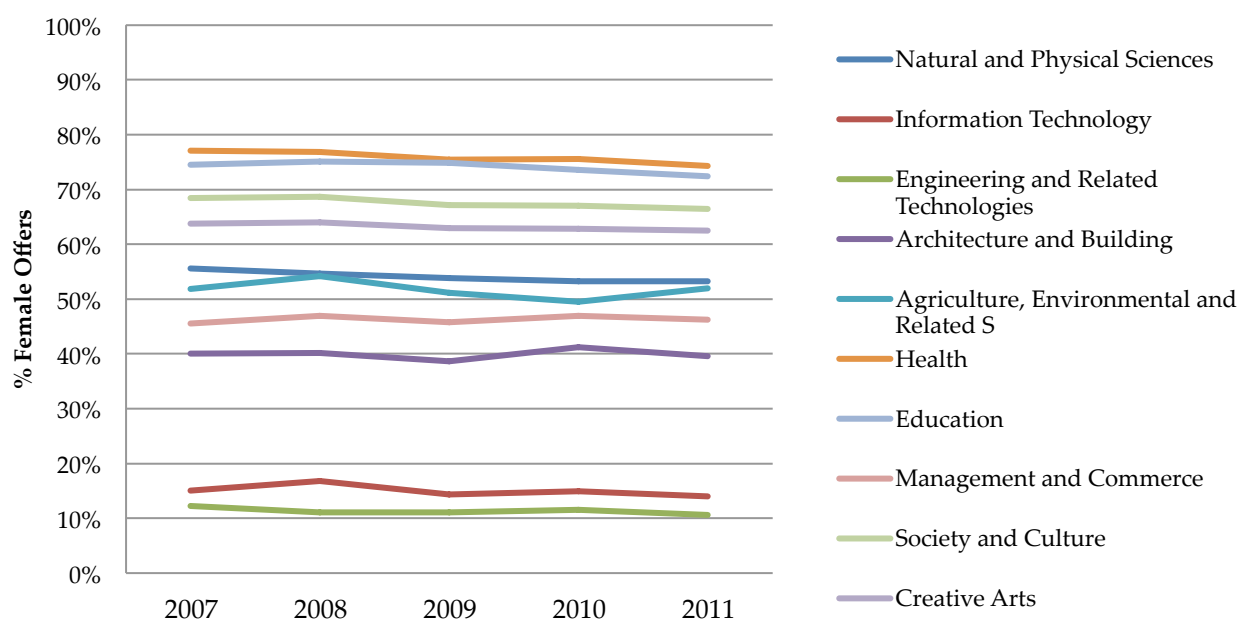


Figure 9.2: Female Proportion of Offers, by Broad Field of Study



The proportion of female students who received a higher education offer has remained relatively static, with the patterns of over-representation and under-representation, often large, steady in a context of sector-wide growth. The STEM disciplines (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) continue to be heavily dominated by males, with the exception of Natural and Physical Sciences.

Table 9.1: Applications, by Gender	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	% increase 2007-2011
	(n)	(n)	(n)	(n)	(n)	(%)
Female	30988	33297	35576	36560	36001	16.2
Male	22684	24595	26750	26754	26653	17.5

Table 9.2: Offers, by Gender	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	% increase 2007-2011
	(n)	(n)	(n)	(n)	(n)	(%)
Female	19528	22278	24476	27242	27430	40.5
Male	13883	15489	18057	19670	20142	45.1

Table 9.3 Enrolments, by Gender	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	% increase 2007-2011
	(n)	(n)	(n)	(n)	(n)	(%)
Female	14255	16227	17701	19727	20808	46.0
Male	10403	11600	13441	14716	15785	51.7

Table 9.4: Offer Rates, by Gender	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Female	63.0	66.9	68.8	74.5	76.2
Male	61.2	63.0	67.5	73.5	75.6

Table 9.5: Female Proportion of offers, by Broad Field of Study	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Natural and Physical Sciences	55.6	54.6	53.8	53.3	53.2
Information Technology	15.1	16.8	14.3	14.9	14
Engineering and Related Technologies	12.3	11.1	11.1	11.6	10.6
Architecture and Building	40	40.2	38.6	41.2	39.6
Agriculture, Environmental and Related Science	51.9	54.2	51.1	49.5	52
Health	77.1	76.8	75.4	75.6	74.3
Education	74.5	75.1	74.9	73.6	72.4
Management and Commerce	45.5	46.9	45.8	47	46.3
Society and Culture	68.4	68.7	67.1	67	66.4
Creative Arts	63.8	64	62.9	62.8	62.5

10. School type

The number of applications, offers and enrolments grew most steeply between 2007 and 2011 for school-leavers from Government schools. The number of additional enrolments by school-leavers from Government schools grew by well over 5000 between 2007 and 2011, from 10,103 to 15,305. Applicants from Independent schools continue to have considerably higher offer rates than those for applicants from Government or Catholic schools.

Figure 10.1: Offer Rates, by School Type

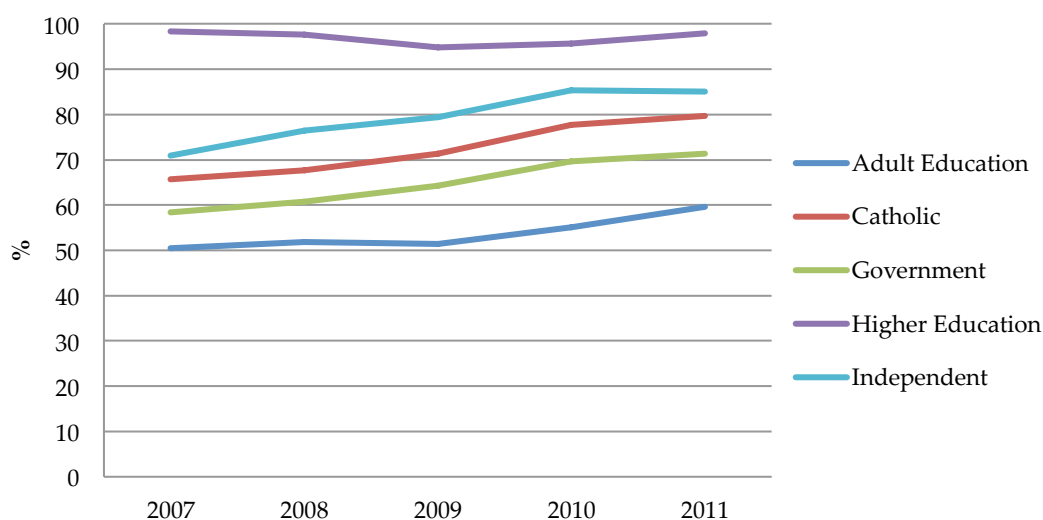


Figure 10.2: Overall percentage increase in applications, offers and enrolments 2007-2011, by School Type

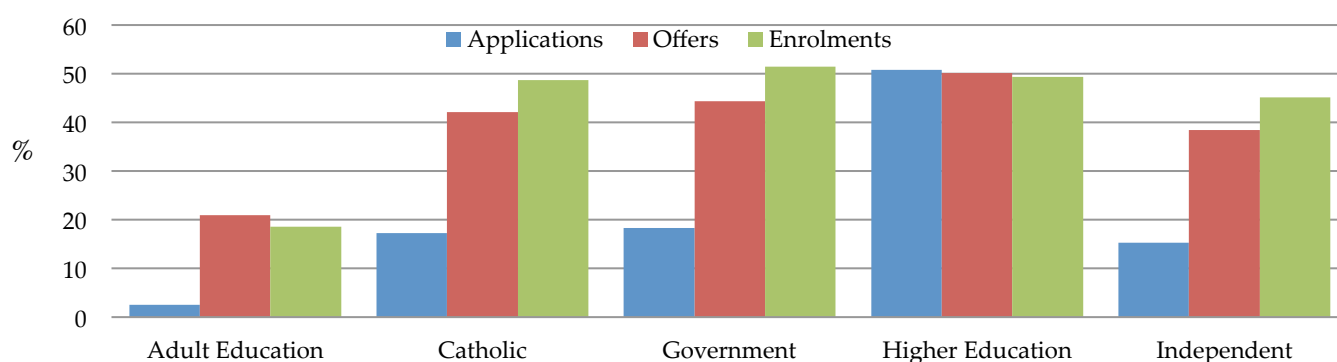


Figure 10.3: Enrolments, by School Type

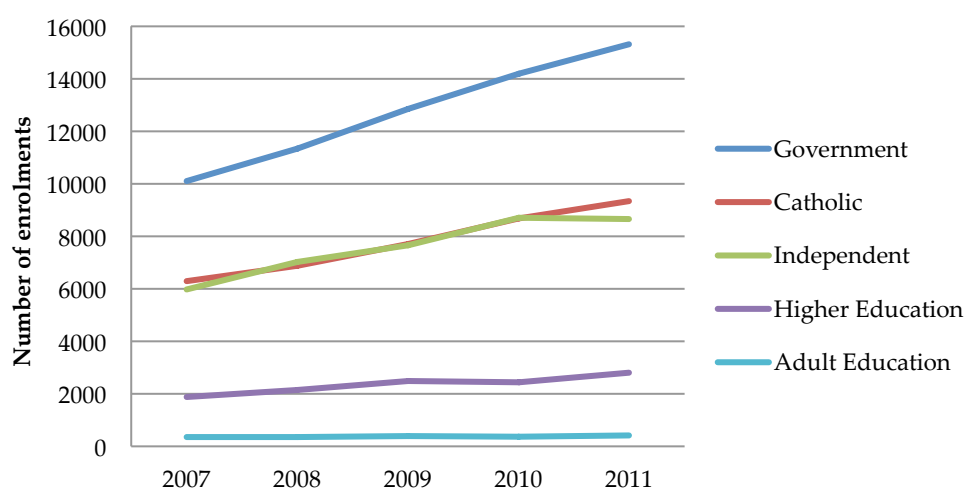


Table 10.1 Applications, by School Type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	% increase 2007-2011
	(n)	(n)	(n)	(n)	(n)	(%)
Adult Education	951	919	1073	1034	975	2.5
Catholic	12547	13418	14277	14608	14701	17.2
Government	23561	25381	27372	27773	27867	18.3
Higher Education	2779	3215	3925	4079	4191	50.8
Independent	11421	12485	13042	13648	13171	15.3

Table 10.2: Offers, by School Type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	% increase 2007-2011
	(n)	(n)	(n)	(n)	(n)	(%)
Adult Education	480	476	552	570	581	21.0
Catholic	8240	9082	10197	11356	11708	42.1
Government	13758	15406	17583	19345	19869	44.4
Higher Education	2734	3139	3719	3903	4104	50.1
Independent	8097	9550	10355	11640	11209	38.4

Table 10.3: Enrolments, by School Type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	% increase 2007-2011
	(n)	(n)	(n)	(n)	(n)	(%)
Adult Education	354	354	381	371	420	18.6
Catholic	6282	6873	7706	8683	9340	48.7
Government	10103	11343	12840	14188	15305	51.5
Higher Education	1880	2151	2497	2443	2808	49.4
Independent	5973	7025	7646	8708	8665	45.1

Table 10.4: Offer Rates, by School Type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Adult Education	50.5	51.8	51.4	55.1	59.6
Catholic	65.7	67.7	71.4	77.7	79.6
Government	58.4	60.7	64.2	69.7	71.3
Higher Education	98.4	97.6	94.8	95.7	97.9
Independent	70.9	76.5	79.4	85.3	85.1

11. ATAR profile

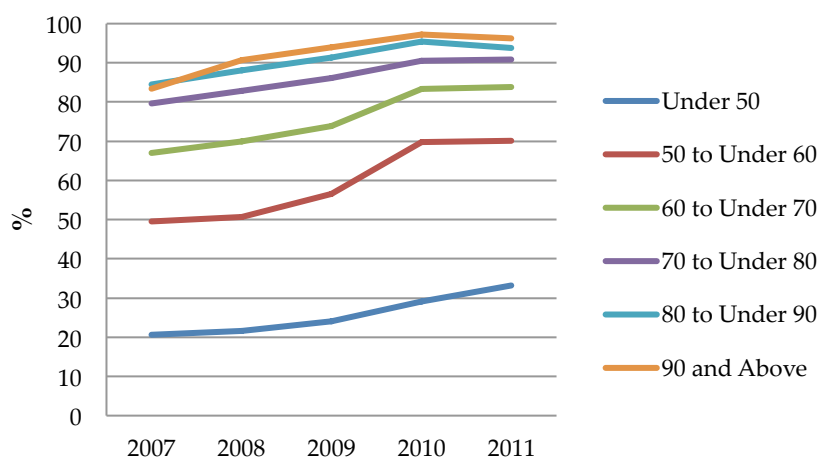
The overall growth in applications in Victoria has been underpinned by growth in the number of applicants across all ATAR bands with the highest growth among applicants with ATARs between 50 and 70 (Table 11.2).

Offer rates increased for all ATAR bands between 2007 and 2011, however these climbed most steeply for the lower ATAR bands, notably those below 60, reflecting the greater willingness and capacity of universities to make offers to students with lower levels of school achievement. By 2011, applicants through VTAC with an ATAR below 50 had a one in three likelihood of receiving an offer (Table 11.1) compared with a one in five likelihood in 2007.

The offer rates for ATAR bands greater than 70 have now reached over 90% (Figure 9.1). The trends suggest saturation points may have been reached.

Clearly, a greater number of people from the lowest quartile of ATAR ranks are now applying for higher education through VTAC. The proportion of applicants in 2011 with ATARs in the lowest quartile of ATARs was 9.4%, which after a sustained increase sat at 12.2% by 2011. In contrast, the 2007 applicants with ATARs in the highest quartile of ATARs made up 31.5% of applicants but this percentage was reduced to 28.6% in 2011.

Figure 11.1: Offer Rates, by ATAR band



**Figure 11.2: Overall percentage increase in applications, offers and enrolments
2007-2011 by ATAR profile**

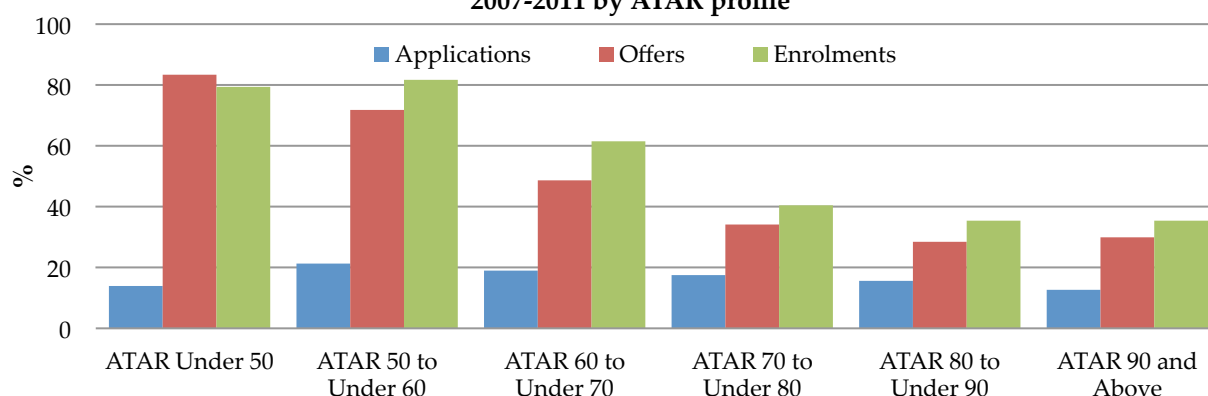


Table 11.1: Offer Rates, by ATAR band

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Under 50	20.6	21.5	24.1	29.2	33.2
50 to under 60	49.5	50.7	56.6	69.8	70.1
60 to under 70	67	70	73.9	83.4	83.8
70 to under 80	79.6	82.9	86.2	90.5	90.9
80 to under 90	84.4	88.1	91.4	95.5	93.8
90 and above	83.4	90.6	94	97.3	96.2

Table 11.2: Applications, by ATAR Band

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	% increase 2007-2011
	(n)	(n)	(n)	(n)	(n)	(%)
Under 50	9410	10197	10978	11287	10726	14.0
50 to under 60	6740	7141	7885	8130	8174	21.3
60 to under 70	8269	8964	9386	9780	9834	18.9
70 to under 80	8490	9379	9456	9900	9979	17.5
80 to under 90	8481	9108	9723	9692	9809	15.7
90 and above	7998	8346	9276	8793	9017	12.7

Table 11.3: Offers, by ATAR Band

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	% increase 2007-2011
	(n)	(n)	(n)	(n)	(n)	
Under 50	1940	2197	2644	3295	3557	83.4
50 to under 60	3337	3620	4466	5678	5733	71.8
60 to under 70	5538	6272	6935	8156	8237	48.7
70 to under 80	6761	7771	8148	8958	9068	34.1
80 to under 90	7160	8022	8883	9252	9196	28.4
90 and above	6670	7565	8721	8552	8672	30.0

Table 11.4: Enrolments, by ATAR Band	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	% increase 2007-2011
	(n)	(n)	(n)	(n)	(n)	(%)
Under 50	1441	1638	1863	2225	2585	79.4
50 to Under 60	2304	2454	2954	3611	4185	81.6
60 to Under 70	3858	4372	4845	5828	6228	61.4
70 to Under 80	5033	5740	6029	6833	7065	40.4
80 to Under 90	5494	6131	6841	7270	7435	35.3
90 and Above	5193	5900	6838	6799	7025	35.3

References

ABS 2008 Australian Bureau of Statistics, Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Data Cube, 2006 (2033.0.55.001), Released 26 March 2008