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20 APR 2015

Eric Miao
fyi-request-2562ebc4f947@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Miao

Thank you for your email of 9 March 2015 requesting:

How many students (local and international) enrolled in the secondary and tertiary sector failed to complete (withdrew) or failed to pass their courses in the 2013/2014 academic years?

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Monitoring and reporting on student achievement allows the Government and the public to see the areas where students are achieving and where there is room for improvement. As there is substantial interest in these figures, the Government agencies that are tasked with collating this data regularly publish reports and findings.

In 2013, there were 418,000 students (including international students) enrolled in formal study with tertiary education providers. Course completion records from tertiary providers are only required for students in formal qualifications that pay their fees in full or are funded through the Student Achievement Component or the Youth Guarantee programme. Of the 418,000 students, 402,860 had their course completion records reported.

The 2013 tertiary figures show 112,760 of the 355,500 domestic students, for whom course completion was reported, failed one or more courses. While 11,730 of 47,360 international students, for whom course completion was reported, failed one or more courses. More data and information on 2013 Tertiary course completion rates can be found at:

- http://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/statistics/tertiary/retention_and_achievement
- <http://www.tec.govt.nz/About-us/News/Updates/2013-Tertiary-Education-Performance-Report-/>

The Ministry does not currently hold 2014 data relating to tertiary course results as this will not be submitted by tertiary providers until 15 May 2015. Therefore, I have declined this part of the request under section 18(g)(i) of the Act, as the information requested is not held by the Ministry. When this data is available it will be published on the Education Counts website and the Tertiary Education Commission's (TEC) website, similar to how the 2013 data is presented in the links above.

Data relating to course completion rates and qualification attainment at secondary schools is made publically available on New Zealand Qualification Authority's (NZQA) website every year. This information is broken down into multiple ways for in-depth analysis. You can find the 2013 and 2014 data at:

- <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/studying-in-new-zealand/secondary-school-and-ncea/find-information-about-a-school/secondary-school-statistics/consolidated-files/>

More data relating to secondary school qualification attainment can also be seen here:

- http://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/data-services/data-collections/school_leavers

As 2013 and 2014 information on how many students enrolled in secondary schools failed their courses is publically available, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(d) of the Act.

If you are unhappy with our response under section 28(3) of the Act you have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this response. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely



Lisa Rodgers
Deputy Secretary
Evidence, Data and Knowledge