

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Question Taken on Notice

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From: Mrs Lia Finocchiaro

To: Hon Eva Lawler

Portfolio: Treasurer

Agency: Department of Treasury and Finance

Subject: Population growth percentage forward estimate

Question: Please provide the population growth percentage, just like table 3.1 on page 29 of Budget Paper 2 for the forward estimates, being 2024-25, 2025-26 and 2026-27. If Treasury were to minus the number of international students it has determined will be included in their population statistics.

Answer: The Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF) does not produce forecasts for migration by visa status. The population forecasts are developed by considering overall movements in overseas migration, interstate migration and natural increase, based on historical data, leading indicators and underlying drivers.

Applying DTF's methodology for net overseas migration to international student visa data suggests that international students contribute around 340 persons to net overseas migration each year on average. This implies an increase in international students over the forecast period of around 1,700 students. Note the 10,000 international student target was set by StudyNT in 2019 and is not used by DTF in producing its forecasts.

Table 1 provides estimates for Budget 2023-24 population growth forecasts on the assumption that international student numbers remain steady at current levels.

Table 1: No increase in international students scenario

	2021-22a	2022-23e	2023-24f	2024-25f	2025-26f	2026-27f
Budget 2023-24 (%)	0.6	0.4	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0
No increase in international students scenario (%)	0.6	0.2	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9
Difference (ppt)	-	-0.2	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1

Table 2 provides estimates for population growth on the assumption that no new international students come to the Territory over the forecast period, and existing international students leave once their courses finish.

Table 2: No new international students scenario

	2021-22a	2022-23e	2023-24f	2024-25f	2025-26f	2026-27f
Budget 2023-24 (%)	0.6	0.4	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0
No new international students scenario (%)	0.6	0.2	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8
Difference (ppt)	-	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2