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Media Statement

For Immediate Release

Interest in tertiary study 'healthy'

The class of 2009 is out and Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre figures show a 'healthy' trend with over 54,000 applicants for tertiary study starting this year and next year. This represents an increase of 18 percent compared with last year.

QTAC manager Public Relations and Information Services Ms Pat Smith said the biggest growth areas this year, based on applicants' first preference choices for semester 1 entry, were in society and culture (which includes humanities, law and psychology) and health (which includes nursing and specialist health professions such as physiotherapy, optometry, speech pathology, and occupational therapy).

Nursing, by itself, is up 46.2 percent. The only downward trend so far this year, has come from management and commerce, down 3.3 percent.

Ms Smith said the flexibility of year-round admissions and offers had attracted additional applicants. Of current applicants, 96 percent have listed a course starting in semester 1, 2010 as their first preference and 615 applicants have already received an offer for summer semester courses.

Ms Smith reminded prospective applicants that they could still submit applications and could include courses that start in semester 1 or 2 next year. QTAC is the first admissions centre in Australia to give applicants this opportunity - an effective way to build in contingency plans or a study gap period.

She said the next few weeks would be a time of celebration and tension for Year 12 students as they waited for their Senior results. The Queensland Studies Authority mails out results from Friday, December 18, with students able to access their results electronically from December 19.

Importantly, Year 12 students have until January 6 to change preferences for consideration in the major offer round on January 14. To do this, students are able to log into their application using QTAC's *Current Applicant* online Service, and rearrange their current selections or select new course preferences. Applicants are entitled to three free changes of preference as part of their application.
