

## Senate Committee: Education and Employment

### QUESTION ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016

**Outcome: Agency: ACARA**

**Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000020**

Senator Lines, Sue provided in writing

#### ***ACARA: Science marks for girls***

#### **Question**

Senator LINES: Mr Randall, does anyone take a national look at what is happening with girls particularly, up to year 10, with their marks in science? Are we seeing girls are failing at science, are they doing well at science? Is there any of that kind of assessment being made?

Mr Randall: With the data we collect, and I do not have the report in front of me, we go back to our last sample science assessment, where we look at year 6 students and we will have that report from a boys-girls—

Senator LINES: It is there in NAPLAN, I guess.

Mr Randall: The report will be on our website. I am happy to provide that link or answer that question more specifically.

#### **Answer**

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority has provided the following response.

- Information in relation to girls' performance in the National Assessment Program - science literacy (NAP-SL) can be found in the public reports section on the NAP website: <http://www.nap.edu.au/results-and-reports/national-reports.html>
- The following link to the NAP-SL public report provides information on the performance of students in the NAP Science Literacy Assessment in 2012: [http://www.nap.edu.au/verve/\\_resources/NAP-SL\\_2012\\_Public\\_Report.pdf](http://www.nap.edu.au/verve/_resources/NAP-SL_2012_Public_Report.pdf)
- Information on the mean score for 2012, sorted by gender, state and territory, can be found in Table 6.1 on page 60 of the NAP-SL report, which states that 'at the national level, the mean score for females is one point higher than that for males. However, this difference is not statistically significant nor are any other gender comparisons outlined in Table 6.1.'
- The 2015 NAPLAN National Report contains the achievement of Year 3, 5, 7, and 9 students in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions and Numeracy by Sex, by state and territory, for 2015 and can be located here: [http://www.nap.edu.au/verve/\\_resources/2015\\_NAPLAN\\_national\\_report.pdf](http://www.nap.edu.au/verve/_resources/2015_NAPLAN_national_report.pdf)