

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2007-08 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome 2

DEEWR Question No. EW85_08

Senator Wortley asked on 20 February 2008, EEWPR Proof Hansard page 31.

Question

School Languages

Senator WORTLEY—Can the department provide comparative figures on the teaching of Asian languages in schools, the number of schools and the number of students at each level of schooling for the years of operation of NALSAS and the subsequent years?

Ms Paul—We can take that on notice, but we can give you the figures here for the decline. Let us see: NALSAS ceased in 2002; I am just not sure whether we can do the figures.

Senator WORTLEY—I would be happy for you to take those questions and the questions on the comparative figures on notice.

Ms Paul—Yes, I think that is probably best.

Answer

The National Asian Languages and Studies in Australian Schools (NALSAS) Strategy ran from 1994 to 2002.

The most recent publicly available information on the teaching of Asian Languages in schools that breaks down the number of schools and the number of students at each year level of schooling is contained in a 2002 report titled *Evaluation of the National Asian Languages and Studies in Australian Schools Strategy* (Erebus Report), undertaken by Erebus Consulting Partners for the then Department of Education, Science and Training.

Appendix 4 of the Erebus Report provides data on the number of schools offering the NALSAS languages in 2000. Appendix 4 is at Attachment A.

Appendix 3 of the Erebus Report provides data on student enrolments by year level in NALSAS languages in 2000. A summary of the relevant information in Appendix 3 is at Attachment B.

The table at Attachment C provides comparative data on Year 12 enrolments in Asian languages from 2000 to 2006. This information was drawn from the *National Report on Schooling in Australia 2006*.

Evaluation of the National Asian Languages and Studies in Australian Schools Strategy

Appendix 4: Number of Schools offering each NALSAS language in 2000 by Sector

Number of Schools offering each NALSAS Language 2000 - Government					
NALSAS Languages	Level of School				
	Primary	Secondary	Combined	Special	Total
Chinese	208	116	14	0	338
Indonesian	929	296	100	8	1333
Japanese	998	503	76	3	1580
Korean	14	22	0	0	36
Total	2149	937	190	11	3287

Number of Schools offering each NALSAS Language 2000 - Catholic					
NALSAS Languages	Level of School				
	Primary	Secondary	Combined	Special	Total
Chinese	30	117	5	0	152
Indonesian	176	71	15	0	262
Japanese	262	159	24	0	445
Korean	2	2	1	0	5
Total	470	349	45	0	864

Number of Schools offering each NALSAS Language 2000 - Independent					
NALSAS Languages	Level of School				
	Primary	Secondary	Combined	Special	Total
Chinese	7	4	68	0	79
Indonesian	45	25	130	0	200
Japanese	44	30	177	0	251
Korean	0	1	3	0	4
Total	96	60	378	0	534

Number of Schools offering each NALSAS Language 2000 - All Jurisdictions					
NALSAS Languages	Level of School				
	Primary	Secondary	Combined	Special	Total
Chinese	245	237	87	0	569
Indonesian	1150	392	245	8	1795
Japanese	1304	692	277	3	2276
Korean	16	25	4	0	45
Total	2715	1346	613	11	4685

**Evaluation of the National Asian Languages and Studies in Australian Schools Strategy
Relevant information from Appendix 3**

Number of students studying a NALSAS Language in 2000 at each year level

Primary	Number of students
Pre Year 1	42,699
Year 1	46,366
Year 2	51,592
Year 3	68,607
Year 4	78,002
Year 5	98,692
Year 6	103,018
Year 7	50,396
Secondary	
Year 7	60,583
Year 8	77,662
Year 9	35,518
Year 10	21,694
Year 11	9,877
Year 12	8,329
TOTAL	753,035

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2007-08 – 20 FEBRUARY 2008

Senator Wortley asked for: data comparing the decline in enrolments in Asian languages from the cessation of the NALSAS Strategy, taking into account the increase in overall enrolments.

Data is available for Year 12 enrolments from the *National Report on Schooling in Australia – 2006* (Appendix 1: Statistical annex).

	2000	2001	2002¹	2003	2004	2005	2006
Total Yr 12 full-time students	185,810	188,110	193,672	193,616	193,275	194,165	196,431
Total number of languages students^{2 3}	24,562	26,102	24,419	24,937	25,539	25,284	24,918
Number of languages students -Japanese⁴	5,403	5,481	4,883	4,738	4,852	5,056	4,983
Number of languages students enrolled in Chinese	2,947	3,654	3,907	4,738	5,363	5,056	4,734
Number of languages students enrolled in Indonesian	2,210	2,349	1,953	1,745	1,787	1,769	1,495
Number of languages students enrolled in Korean	239	226	252		313	264	355

¹ Funding for the NALSAS Strategy ceased at the end of 2002.

² Number of year 12 students enrolled in tertiary-accredited subjects, by key learning area – all Languages other than English.

³ Students may be enrolled in more than one subject within each key learning area. For example, a student may be enrolled in Chinese and Japanese but for the purposes of this collection are only counted once.

⁴ Numbers are approximate, rounded down to nearest whole number.

