

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2011-2012**

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

DEEWR Question No. EW1214_12

Senator Back asked on 16 February 2012, Hansard page 68

Question

High school completion rates

Senator BACK: I will organise for it to be passed on to you so that you can be aware. Whilst I am able to, I will just go to assaults on Northern Territory teachers. I think we can regard from the previous discussion that that matter has been dealt with. Although the question really that was asked was, has there been a cover-up in terms of this information? But I will let that one go for the moment. I want to come back to something drawn to my attention, and that is: a skills push target needs more work referring to two reports released by the COAG Reform Council in November last year assessing the performance on skills and education targets agreed to by state, territory and Commonwealth governments. We have not been able to open the reports on the website, but it is talking about the target to lift high school completion to 90 per cent by 2015 from 85.6 per cent in 2010. Can you tell us what has been the actual result to date in regional, rural and remote schools of high school completions? Ms Paul: We will take it on notice to get that level of detail.

Answer

The COAG target of 90 per cent Year 12 or equivalent attainment by 2015 is measured by the ABS *Survey of Education and Work [Cat.No.6227.0]*. This measure includes qualifications attained through publicly and privately funded vocational education and training, as well as Year 12 school qualifications.

The sample size is not sufficient to disaggregate data reliably below state and territory level.