

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

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

Agency - Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority

DEEWR Question No. EW1215_12

Senator Back asked on 16 February 2012 , Hansard page 68

Question

ACARA - Literacy and numeracy improvement in COAG report

Senator BACK: Also, if you can then take on notice—this is going further into it—literacy and numeracy and the fact that it is improving. Again, we would like to know what those results are. Ms Paul: Sure.

Answer

ACARA has provided the following response.

The report *Education 2010: Comparing performance across Australia* is a report from the COAG Reform Council to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG).

The relevant tables in the above report are provided in Attachments 2-5 below. The data provided in the tables titled Additional 1 to Additional 4 were provided to the COAG Reform Council by ACARA.

Education 2010: Key findings

Reading and Numeracy is improving, mainly in States with lower NAPLAN performance

- Nationally, average scores improved in Years 3 and 7 Reading, and Year 5 Numeracy.
- Queensland and Western Australia's average scores improved in both Reading and Numeracy in at least two of the four year levels of testing. These States had comparatively lower results in NAPLAN 2008.

Mixed progress for Indigenous students

- Between 2007 and 2010, Year 10 Indigenous school attendance declined in all States and Territories.
- In NAPLAN, Indigenous students have made some progress in Reading in Years 3 and 7.
- Based on three years of data, the COAG targets to halve the gap in literacy and numeracy achievement by 2018 are generally on track for Years 3, 5 and 7—but at risk for Year 9.
- Indigenous students have a consistently higher absent rate in NAPLAN testing than non-Indigenous students. Nationally, the rate is three times higher.

The performance of low SES students in NAPLAN is better in some States and Territories

- In meeting the national minimum standard, the performance of low SES students differs across States and Territories.
- However, results for high SES students are similar regardless of the State and Territory they live in.

Australia is on track to meet COAG's target to lift Year 12 attainment, but post-school engagement has not improved over the past decade

- Year 12 attainment or equivalent is increasing and Australia is on track to meet COAG's target of 90% attainment by 2015.
- Since 2001, there have been no significant improvements in young people's post-school engagement in education, training or work. In 2010, the rate was just 73%.

Internationally, Australia performs well but our scores are declining over time

- Australian students continue to perform well in PISA compared to other developed countries.
- However, Australia's scores in international testing declined in reading (2000–2009) and maths (2003–2009), largely due to falls in the proportion of students achieving at the top levels.

SQ12-000307 Attachment 2

Additional.1 Reading, Proportion of students at or above the national minimum standard and confidence interval, NAPLAN, 2008 and 2010

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	NT non Indigenous	Aust
Year 3										
2008	95.1	95.2	87.1	89.4	91.5	92.8	94.4	62.7	88.2	92.1
2010	95.3	95.4	92.1	91.7	93.2	93.8	95.7	69.7	90.7	93.9
2008 Confidence interval	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.8	1.0	1.0	1.5	6.4	2.8	0.3
2010 Confidence interval	0.9	0.7	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.3	6.5	2.7	1.0
Year 5										
2008	93.5	93.7	86.9	89.1	89.9	89.7	94.8	62.5	88.9	91.0
2010	93.0	94.2	88.2	89.1	90.1	90.7	94.2	64.4	89.4	91.3
2008 Confidence interval	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.9	1.1	1.3	1.2	6.4	2.4	0.3
2010 Confidence interval	1.3	1.0	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.1	1.6	7.2	3.0	1.4
Year 7										
2008	95.4	95.8	92.9	92.7	93.4	93.9	96.3	67.1	93.5	94.2
2010	95.0	96.2	94.6	94.3	95.3	94.3	96.9	71.5	93.1	94.9
2008 Confidence interval	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.8	1.5	1.4	9.2	2.8	0.3
2010 Confidence interval	0.9	0.7	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.6	1.3	8.4	4.2	0.8
Year 9										
2008	94.4	94.7	90.5	91.8	91.7	93.0	96.6	69.9	92.2	92.9
2010	91.2	93.3	89.5	89.3	89.9	90.2	93.7	68.1	91.1	90.8
2008 Confidence interval	0.5	0.5	0.9	1.1	1.7	1.7	1.2	8.2	2.3	0.3
2010 Confidence interval	1.5	1.2	1.8	2.1	2.2	2.7	2.1	8.7	4.4	1.4

Notes:

1. Confidence intervals are those used to compare data over time.

Source: ACARA (unpublished) NAPLAN Achievement in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions and Numeracy: National Report for 2010.

SQ12-000307 Attachment 3

Additional.2 Numeracy, Proportion of students at or above the national minimum standard and confidence interval, NAPLAN, 2008 and 2010

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	NT non Indigenous	Aust
Year 3										
2008	96.9	96.5	92.0	94.5	93.8	96.7	96.4	77.0	96.5	95.0
2010	95.0	95.4	93.4	93.5	93.2	94.6	96.6	72.4	93.0	94.3
2008 Confidence interval	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.6	1.2	5.4	1.2	0.2
2010 Confidence interval	1.0	0.7	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.1	6.5	2.3	1.0
Year 5										
2008	94.4	94.6	90.4	91.1	90.5	92.1	94.9	69.1	91.6	92.7
2010	94.7	95.7	92.6	92.3	92.2	93.2	95.3	69.2	93.1	93.7
2008 Confidence interval	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.1	5.8	2.2	0.2
2010 Confidence interval	1.1	0.8	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	1.6	7.2	2.4	1.2
Year 7										
2008	96.0	96.5	94.9	94.7	94.5	95.2	97.1	75.9	95.6	95.4
2010	94.9	96.1	95.4	94.8	95.2	94.2	96.8	72.4	93.5	95.1
2008 Confidence interval	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.7	1.2	1.1	7.1	2.0	0.2
2010 Confidence interval	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.9	1.0	1.7	1.3	8.1	4.2	0.7
Year 9										
2008	94.7	95.2	92.4	92.3	92.0	92.3	96.6	74.1	93.6	93.6
2010	93.1	94.8	93.1	92.0	92.1	92.4	94.7	70.5	92.5	93.1
2008 Confidence interval	0.4	0.5	0.8	1.1	1.7	1.7	1.2	7.4	2.5	0.3
2010 Confidence interval	1.2	0.9	1.3	1.6	1.9	2.3	2.0	8.3	3.9	1.1

Notes:

1. Confidence intervals are those used to compare data over time.

Source: ACARA (unpublished) NAPLAN Achievement in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions and Numeracy: National Report for 2010.

SQ12-000307 Attachment 4

Additional.3 Reading, gain in average scores, NAPLAN, 2008–2010

		NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT non NT Indigenous	Aust	
		Year 3 to Year 5									
Year 3	2008	412.3	419.9	371.1	386.7	400.5	401.2	421.0	306.6	382.5	400.5
Year 5	2010	496.2	502.2	468.7	477.5	476.5	484.6	508.6	412.1	475.4	487.4
Gain		83.9	82.3	97.6	90.8	76.0	83.4	87.6	105.5	92.9	86.9
		Year 5 to Year 7									
Year 5	2008	494.7	496.7	466.1	473.6	477.9	476.4	503.3	405.1	474.5	484.4
Year 7	2010	548.6	553.3	537.5	544.5	543.2	541.8	567.3	487.7	539.2	546.0
Gain		53.9	56.6	71.4	70.9	65.3	65.4	64.0	82.6	64.7	61.6
		Year 7 to Year 9									
Year 7	2008	542.5	543.0	528.1	527.0	533.5	534.2	558.2	468.4	531.0	536.5
Year 9	2010	578.2	582.1	564.9	565.7	567.1	569.9	594.8	523.6	572.7	573.7
Gain		35.7	39.1	36.8	38.7	33.6	35.7	36.6	55.2	41.7	37.2

Source: ACARA (2010) NAPLAN Achievement in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions and Numeracy: National Report for 2010, pp486, 507 & 528.

SQ12-000307 Attachment 5

Additional.4 Numeracy, gain in average scores, NAPLAN, 2008–2010

		NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT non NT Indigenous	Aust	
		Year 3 to Year 5									
Year 3	2008	408.9	416.9	367.9	381.9	388.8	399.9	411.5	338.4	386.9	396.9
Year 5	2010	498.4	502.7	474.1	476.8	472.6	479.4	498.7	421.5	472.7	488.8
Gain		89.5	85.8	106.2	94.9	83.8	79.5	87.2	83.1	85.8	91.9
		Year 5 to Year 7									
Year 5	2008	487.8	489.7	458.2	460.7	460.4	464.6	483.8	416.3	459.4	475.9
Year 7	2010	550.1	553.6	546.2	545.8	538.5	530.6	556.2	486.6	534.1	547.8
Gain		62.3	63.9	88.0	85.1	78.1	66.0	72.4	70.3	74.7	71.9
		Year 7 to Year 9									
Year 7	2008	551.3	552.3	539.0	533.7	536.2	533.8	556.2	488.1	534.2	545.0
Year 9	2010	591.5	592.8	577.4	577.9	573.1	571.4	597.2	529.9	575.2	585.1
Gain		40.2	40.5	38.4	44.2	36.9	37.6	41.0	41.8	41.0	40.1

Source: ACARA (2010) NAPLAN Achievement in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions and Numeracy: National Report for 2010, pp502, 523 & 544.