

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2007-2008 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome

DEST Question No. E091_08

Senator Barnett asked on 31 May 2007, EWRE Hansard page 46.

Question:

Senator CARR—Do you have any data on the number of students who failed both the literacy and numeracy benchmark testing in the relevant year of testing?

Ms Hanlon—We have a total of 233,000 who have not reached the literacy or numeracy benchmark, according to the 2005 data.

Senator CARR—Are these students eligible for two vouchers—that is, a literacy and a numeracy voucher?

Mr McDonald – Just to clarify, that figure is for years 3, 5, 7 and 9. For year 9 we have used an estimated based on year 7.

Ms Hanlon—That is correct.

Senator BARNETT—Could you take that on notice and break it down on a state by state basis, please?

Ms Hanlon—We can do that.

Answer:

Literacy and Numeracy Benchmarks

Parents/caregivers will be eligible for assistance to the total value of \$700. It is expected that parents/caregivers will be able to discuss with their child's school whether literacy tuition or numeracy tuition will be of most benefit for their child.

The 233,000 students quoted is an estimate based on national figures for Year 3, 5 and 7 students below reading and numeracy benchmarks, and an estimated number of students below Year 9 reading and numeracy benchmarks. Actual figures for Year 9 are not yet known.

The following table provides an estimated breakdown on a state by state basis of the numeracy and reading benchmarks for 2005 for Years 3, 5 and 7.

Estimated number of students below the Literacy and Numeracy Benchmarks - 2005

State/Territory	Year 3		Year 5		Year 7		
	Numeracy	Reading	Numeracy	Reading	Numeracy	Reading	
NSW	3771	5492	6973	8653	20141	10030	
VIC	2655	4870	2794	6833	7992	2986	
QLD	3812	3276	6450	10968	9170	6475	
SA	1351	1625	1884	2094	2695	1168	

WA	1476	959	3675	2169	4169	3884	
TAS	555	319	717	471	1263	752	
NT	374	770	860	750	883	702	
ACT	229	154	303	226	537	291	
AUSTRALIA	14,157	17,442	23,733	31,975	47,019	26,407	
GRAND TOTAL							160,733

Total Years 3, 5 an 7	160,733
Total estimated Year 9	71,561
Total	232,294

Notes:

The Australian Government does not receive data from the states and territories on the numbers of students above or below the benchmarks. These figures are only estimates, not actual numbers not achieving the benchmarks. ABS figures on the number of children in the Year level at school form the basis for our figures. The ABS figures may not match up with base number of figures used for testing purposes.

Figures for Year 9 are not available. Figures provided for Year 9 have been based on Year 7.