

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2008-09 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome 2

DEEWR Question No. EW686_09

Senator Nettle asked on 4 June 2008, EEWHR Hansard page 94-95

Question

Public Schools' enrolment data

Can you advise how public schools' enrolment data is audited, broken down by jurisdiction?

Answer

Each year, State and Territory education authorities provide the Commonwealth government school enrolment data together with a summary of their data verification and auditing processes. These processes are summarised below.

NSW Uses a range of validation and integrity checks when collecting actual school enrolment data. A sample of schools is audited each year by the department's audit unit.

Vic Enrolment data are run through a validation process as they are submitted to the schools' management system. These data are later downloaded to a central system where further validation checks are made.

Schools are audited at least once every three years.

Qld Enrolment data are run through a validation process as they are submitted to the schools' management system. These data are later downloaded to Central Office where a further 200 odd validation checks are carried out.

The Department also has an established audit program which regularly audits Queensland state schools.

SA Enrolment data are run through a validation process as the data are submitted to the schools management system. Further validation checks are run as the data are uploaded to the "Student Census System".

In February each year, the Department of Education and Children's Services internal audit unit conduct an enrolment audit on a sample of schools.

WA Enrolment data are run through a validation process as they are submitted to the schools' management system.

On receipt of schools' data at central office, a further set of comprehensive automated validations are undertaken. Where necessary, schools are contacted, data verified, and paper copies of their data annotated.

These data and the systems which collect and store these data, are subject to audit by the Auditor General.

TAS Enrolment data are run through a validation process as the data are submitted to the schools management system. Further validation checks are run as selected tables and data elements are uploaded to a central “warehouse”. At census time, school principals endorse statements declaring their school’s enrolment data.

Post Census Audits are conducted on a sample of schools.

NT Data are submitted to central data system, either via a “Student Administration Management System” or by paper return. Every four weeks the department compiles a report for each school, and asks the schools to verify these data. Schools are audited every few years.

ACT The details of all eligible students are downloaded from school databases into a central database. These figures are then verified with the school to ensure their accuracy.

A sample of schools is audited in February / March each year.