

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2012-2013**

Agency - Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority

DEEWR Question No. EW0096_13

Senator Boyce provided in writing.

Question

ACARA - NAPLAN participation threshold

Has a NAPLAN participation threshold been determined that would ensure accuracy and usefulness of data?

Answer

ACARA has provided the following response.

There is no participation threshold per se, below which the data are not useful; however, in general, the smaller the school size, the larger the confidence interval.

The figures reported on the *My School* website can be subject to different kinds of error, including measurement and sampling error. The possible size of that error is estimated and used to create a confidence interval around many of the figures. That confidence interval indicates a range that is likely to capture the true value of the figure (i.e. if there were no error), to a specific level of confidence. Unless otherwise specified, that level of confidence is 90%. In other words, one can be 90% confident that the error-free figure would fall within the range of the confidence interval.

The information provided by ACARA in the NAPLAN National Reports is subject to a determination by readers as to how meaningful and useful it is given all the contextual information provided, including the number of students who participated.