

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. EW0097_13

Senator Boyce provided in writing.

Question

ACARA - student omission rates

Can you provide figures for student omission rates for each edition of the NAPLAN test in each age cohort?

Answer

ACARA has provided the following response.

Information on NAPLAN participation (and non-participation rates) is available in the NAPLAN National Reports published from 2008 and on the NAP website:
http://www.nap.edu.au/Test_Results/NAPLAN_results/Participation_rate/index.html#results.

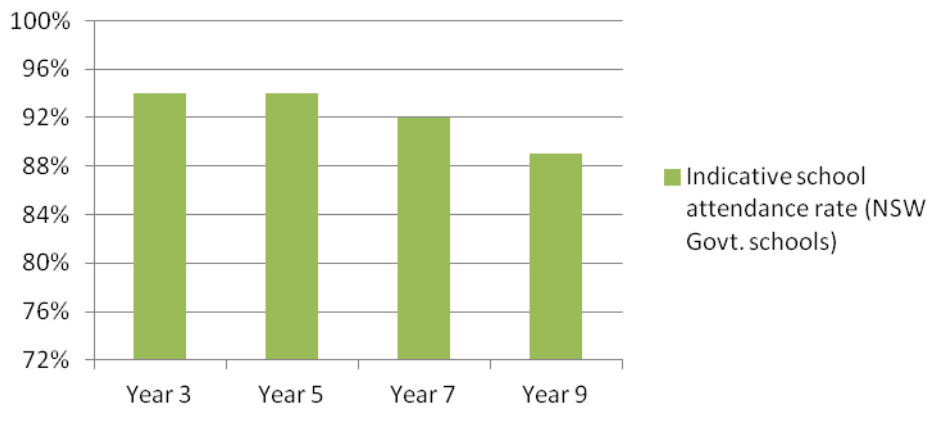
It should be noted that 'participation' includes all students who sat that tests plus those who were exempt from the tests.

The figures below represent the percentage of students who did not sit the tests because they were either withdrawn from testing or absent.

NAPLAN non-participation rates %	DOMAIN															
	Numeracy				Reading				Language Conventions				Writing			
	'08	'09	'10	'11	'08	'09	'10	'11	'08	'09	'10	'11	'08	'09	'10	'11
Year 3	3.7	4.0	4.7	4.3	3.4	3.6	4.5	4.4	4.4	3.5	4.3	4.1	3.6	3.6	4.5	4.6
Year 5	3.4	3.6	4.1	3.8	3.2	3.2	3.8	3.8	3.1	3.1	3.6	3.6	3.3	3.2	3.8	4.1
Year 7	3.9	4.0	4.3	4.0	3.7	3.7	3.9	3.8	3.6	3.5	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.8	4.4
Year 9	6.7	6.7	7.5	7.1	6.5	6.3	7.1	6.7	6.3	5.9	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.0	6.8	7.6

ACARA is unable to provide a definitive response to the reasons why Year 9 NAPLAN participation is lower than that of other year levels. Nevertheless, an indication of school attendance trends is provided below based on attendance rates in 2011 for the NSW government sector only. This demonstrates that school attendance in general for Year 9 students is well below that of other year levels.

Table 1: Indicative school attendance rate (NSW Govt. schools)



Because the definitions and methodologies used by jurisdictions and sectors to collect attendance data are not uniform, data cannot currently be aggregated or averaged at the national level. Further, NAPLAN participation data is collected and reported at a jurisdiction level as a whole (with all school sectors are included) and for each domain tested.