

**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. EW0320\_13**

**Senator Mason asked on 30 May 2012 , Hansard page 15**

**Question**

**ACARA - Statistically Similar Schools**

Mr Randall: No. Each school is put in a group of 60. We look for statistically similar schools and the school is grouped with them. You talked then about 17. I do not have those and I am not sure if they are all out of the same group. I do not have that data in front of me because I do not know those schools—which group they were in and things like that. Your question was: what were the other schools in the statistically similar group or groups? But— Senator MASON: Can you take that on notice—how large the cohort of similar schools was? Mr Randall: Yes. Each school, though, is in a group of 60. We report on 60 schools because we find that is a useful number of schools. That is one of the design principles around My School—that we group at that level. We do that because it is a sufficient number of schools to allow a meaningful look at. But I would need to go back to the basis and work with DEEWR on that. So we will take that on notice.

**Answer**

*ACARA has provided the following response.*

On My School, similar schools are schools serving students from statistically similar backgrounds. A school may have up to 60 statistically similar schools shown on My School, as determined by the Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA) value for each school.

Factors used to determine a group of statistically similar schools are the socio-educational backgrounds of the students' parents, whether the school is remote, the proportion of Indigenous students, the proportion of students from a language background other than English, or a combination of these factors. These factors are used to create an ICSEA value for each school.