

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

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

Outcome 2 – Schools and Youth

DEEWR Question No. EW0416_13

Senator Mason asked on 31 May 2012 , Hansard page 49

Question

Indigenous education

Senator SCULLION: We will be able to examine the success or otherwise of these particular changes, because the principle indicator, which is currently on the rise, of how many people actually leave secondary school will be able to be checked. That is something that, if I could put it on notice, you should be prepared to be provide me as we come to each of the estimates processes. Ms Paul: All right.

Answer

The Commonwealth does not have data about the number of Indigenous young people who leave school early each year.

An alternative measure would be participation rates for schooling and vocational education and training. These are provided below.

Percentage of Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons aged 15-19 years enrolled full-time in secondary school, 2008-2010

	2008	2009	2010
Indigenous	39.1%	39.7%	42.4%
Not Indigenous	50.8%	51.2%	52.4%

Source: ABS National Schools Statistics Collection; ABS Population by Age and Sex 3201.0, ABS Experimental Estimates and Projections; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians 3238.0 (Series B projections)

Percentage of Indigenous persons aged 15 - 24 years enrolled in VET, 2008-10, excluding those attending school and those who have completed Year 12

	2008	2009	2010
15 to 19 years	19.5%	18.4%	20.2%
20 to 24 years	17.2%	17.0%	18.8%

Source: National VET Provider Collection; ABS Population by Age and Sex 3201.0; ABS Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians 3238.0 (Series B projections)

2020 Closing the Gap Year 12 or equivalent Attainment Target

The measure for the COAG Year 12 Closing the Gap in Year 12 Attainment target is the ABS Census of Population. The relevant population is 20 to 24 year olds. Specific detail on the measure and the timing of data release is provided below.

The measure for the COAG target of halving the gap for Indigenous people aged 20 to 24 in Year 12 or equivalent attainment rates by 2020 is the Census. This data set (which includes Vocational Education and Training Certificates) will be available after the October 2012 release of Census data.

- The Census measure of this is: the proportion of 20 to 24 year olds having attained at least a year 12 or equivalent or AQF Certificate Level II. The measure is defined as (expressed as a percentage):
 - numerator — number of 20 to 24 year olds who self-identify as having attained a year 12 or AQF Certificate Level II or above (includes Certificate I/II nfd), by Indigenous status
 - denominator — number of 20 to 24 year olds in the population, by Indigenous status

Based on the 2006 Census, the baseline Year 12 or equivalent attainment rate for Indigenous 20 to 24 year olds is 47.4 per cent. There is a gap of about 36 percentage points between the rate for Indigenous and non-Indigenous young people.