

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

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

Outcome 2 – Schools and Youth

DEEWR Question No. EW0431_13

Senator Mason asked on 31 May 2012 , Hansard page 72

Question

ACARA - NAPLAN cheating

Senator MASON: Clearly. The NAPLAN is not always comparing apples with apples. Ages can vary up to 12 months within a class, which for seven- to eight-year-olds is considerable. Work covered by new students from other states also varies. They may have learnt more or less than their new classmates because their previous curriculum could have been different. I suppose with a national curriculum we might start to solve a bit of that. However, the other point might be true that for the first test in year 3 if there is an age variation within a year that could make some difference. How about gender difference? Is there a large gender difference in test outcomes? Ms Davy: The results are reported by gender. I have not got my NAPLAN folder with me, because I thought we were not doing NAPLAN here. Senator MASON: Sure. Ms Davy: I could take it on notice and we can check that. Senator MASON: I would be interested to know

Answer

The NAPLAN National Reports (available at http://www.nap.edu.au/Test_Results/National_reports/index.html) contain information on the achievement of students by gender in each year level and domain.

The following table provides information taken from the *2011 NAPLAN National Report* on the percentage of male and female students achieving at or above the national minimum standard across the five tests undertaken. The results indicate that there is a gender difference but the observed differences are mostly within the margin of error at the system and jurisdictional level.