

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

DEEWR Question No. EW0628_12

Senator Nash provided in writing.

Refers to previous DEEWR Question No [EW0195_12](#).

Question

Rural and Regional

"Following up on Question on Notice reply from budget estimates regarding Year 12 completion rates –
http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/eet_ctte/estimates/bud_1112/answers/EW0195_12.pdf DEEWR responded that the COAG target was 90 per cent by 2015 and that the most recent data shows 85.6pc had completed year 12 or equivalent. It was unable to say what per cent came from rural and regional areas due to the way the survey is sampled. In the dept's response to Senator Back's questioning during the recent supplementary budget estimates (20 Oct 2011), the dept stated the Australian Bureau of Statistics is looking at techniques, particularly in terms of combining survey samples, to see if they can get a little more sensitivity out of the data for rural and regional areas. • Can the dept give a timeline for how long this is expected to take? • Will it then make the appropriate changes so that rural and regional student data is included given many disadvantaged students live in rural and regional Australia? "

Answer

The Australian Bureau of Statistics has advised that a pooling exercise was undertaken that involved combining results from subsequent surveys of education and work (an annual survey of the ABS) in an attempt to get more accurate data for state/territory results. The findings of the project were that there was no appreciable gain in accuracy by combining results. It is not possible to disaggregate this data further down to the regional level.

The proposed Australian Longitudinal Learning Database aims to link data on the pathways and outcomes of Australian students from early childhood education to schooling, post-school education and potentially labour force outcomes. A business case for the development of the database will be presented to senior officials in 2012.