

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

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

Outcome 3 - Tertiary, Skills, International and Indigenous Strategy

DEEWR Question No. EW0679_12

Senator Rhiannon provided in writing.

Question

Reduced funding for small literacy class sizes:

Has there been or do you plan to evaluate or compare the level of literacy and numeracy being attained by students under the current public and private provision model, compared with when TAFE provided literacy combined with vocational training? If not, how will you ascertain that you are getting value for money out of the private provision of literacy courses?

Answer

The Department measures the level of literacy and numeracy being attained by students for all Language, Literacy and Numeracy Program (LLNP) providers. Attainment is measured by each student's improvement in at least two core skill indicators listed in the Australian Core Skills Framework (ACSF) scale.

Eligible job seekers referred to the LLNP are assessed against the ACSF prior to commencing LLNP training to determine their pre-existing skills levels and again post training to establish any improvements.

As at October 2011, the level of attainment in at least two core skill indicators by LLNP clients who completed a training block exceeded 95 per cent for both private and public provider cohorts.