

# Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates 26 May-6 June 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Outcome/Program:** 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Topic:** Truancy officer turnover

**Senator:** Senator Nova Peris

**Question reference number:** 138

**Type of Question:** FPA, Friday 30 May 2014, page 54

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 11 July 2014

**Number of pages:** 4

### **Question:**

Senator PERIS: Could you please provide an update on the number of truancy officers in each school and the latest attendance rates?

Senator Scullion: With attendance rates: as you know, the jurisdictions are responsible for education. With each jurisdiction we have a different set of arrangements about the provision of the attendance data. Some of them have provisions where we are allowed to use it but we are not able to pass that on at this stage. We would like that change, but there are some that we are able to use and publish publicly. We will be able to provide those ones that have no provision of confidentiality. I will have to get back to you on that on notice. There are some privacy issues around that I would have to clarify before I could say you would be able to pass those on.

But within those restrictions, for example, I do not think it would be difficult to pass on the headline numbers. When it comes down to particular schools in particular jurisdictions there may be some differences. I would like the numbers to be consistent, so in terms of those conditionalities I will take that on notice.

Mr Fordham: With the numbers of people employed on the ground at the moment, as of yesterday there are 102 student attendance supervisors, 413 student attendance officers—they are the part-time officers—and another 133 in what we call "the pipeline"—recruitment in a pool.

Senator PERIS: There was a recent article in The Australian that indicated a high staff turnover in some of the areas, notably in the APY lands, where 10 out of the 16 truancy officers initially employed have since left their positions. Can you provide further turnover rates for all locations since the program has begun?

Mr Fordham: To provide them for all locations we would have to do that on notice, I am sorry. There has been some turnover in the APY. There has been turnover in most locations, as you could imagine, with the nature of the work and the labour pool. They are mainly part-time positions. In some cases the turnover is because people get jobs.

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In that APY case there were three people who got jobs and moved on to other roles. Others choose for other reasons.

**Answer:**

The number of School Attendance Supervisors and Officers by community is at Attachment A.

The release of data on school attendance is a matter for each State and Territory Government. The Northern Territory Government and the Queensland Government have given us permission to provide term one attendance data for Remote School Attendance Strategy schools for 2013 and 2014. This data is at Attachment B.

To calculate staff turnover rates for School Attendance Supervisors and Officers, data on the employment record of individuals are required.

School Attendance Supervisors and Officers are employed through: Remote Jobs and Communities Programme providers; state or territory education departments; or other community based organisations and are not employed by the Australian Government.

The Department has sought advice from providers regarding staff turnover, and will be routinely asking providers about turnover issues as part of the quarterly review process.

Remote School Attendance Strategy - School Attendance Supervisors and Officers Daily Report (as at 4 June 2014)							
4/06/2014		Community	School	SASs employed	SASs engaged on participation and in recruitment pipeline/not commenced	SAOs employed	SAOs engaged on participation and in recruitment pipeline/not commenced
NSW	Stage 1	Boggabilla	Boggabilla Central School	1	1	6	
		Walgett	Walgett Community School	2		8	
		Wilcannia	Wilcannia Central School	1		6	
		Totals		4	1	20	0
SA	Stage 1	Yalata/Oak Valley	Yalata Anangu School	1	1	1	1
			Oak Valley Aboriginal School	1		2	
		APY lands SA	Ernabella & Kenmore Park's Anangu Schools		1	7	1
			Pipalyatjara and Murputja Anangu Schools	1	1	2	2
			Amata	1		4	1
		Fregon - APY Lands SA	Fregon Anangu School	1		3	5
		Indulkana - APY lands	Indulkana Anangu School	1		4	2
		Mimili - APY lands	Mimili School	1		3	
	Totals Stage 1		7	3	26	12	
	Stage 2	Kooniba	Kooniba Aboriginal School	1		1	
		Cooper Pedy	Cooper Pedy Area School	1	2	4	12
		Totals Stage 2		2	2	5	12
WA	Stage 1	Carnarvon	Carnarvon Community college	5		15	14
		Halls Creek	Halls Creek District School	1		6	
		Balgo	Luurpa Catholic School	1		3	
		Kalumburu	Kalumburu Remote Community School	1		5	
		Meekatharra	Meekatharra District High School	1	1	5	2
		Warburton/Warakurna/Blackstone (Ngaanyatjarra Lands)	Ngaanyatjarra Lands School	5		15	5
		Onslow	Onslow Primary School	1		4	2
		Roeburne	Roeburne District High School	2		10	
		Punmu/Kunawarritji	Rawa Community School	1		6	
	Totals Stage 1		18	1	69	23	
	Stage 2	Derby	Derby		4		25
		Fitzroy Crossing	Fitzroy Valley School	1	1	3	6
		Wiluna	Wiluna Remote Community School		1		4
		Totals Stage 2		1	6	3	35
QLD	Stage 1	Camooweal	Camooweal State School	1		2	
		Doomadgee	Doomadgee State School	2		10	
		Mornington Island	Mornington Island State School	2		10	
		Palm Island	Bwgcolman Community School	2		10	2
			St Michael's School				
	Totals Stage 1		7	0	32	2	
	Stage 2	Cherbourg	Cherbourg State School	1		7	
		Injino and Bamaga	Northern Peninsula Area State College	4	1	18	5
		Kowanyama	Kowanyama State School	2		7	3
		Lockhart	Lockhart State School	1		5	
		Normanton	Normanton State School	2		7	
		Pormpuraaw State School	Pormpuraaw State School	1		4	
		Woorabinda State School	Woorabinda State School	1		5	
Totals Stage 2		12	1	53	8		
NT	Stage 1	Ali Curung	Alekarenge School	1		5	
		Barunga (Bamyili)	Barunga School	1		2	2
		Bathurst Island	Xavier Catholic College	1		5	
		Beswick (Wugularr)	Wugularr School	1		1	3
		Borrooloola	Borrooloola School	3		6	7
		Bulman	Bulman School	1		2	2
		Epenarra	Epenarra School	2		4	
		Galiwinku	Shepherdson College	3		13	3
		Gapuwiyak	Gapuwiyak School	2		15	1
		Gunbalanya	Gunbalanya School	2		8	7
		Lajamanu	Lajamanu School	2		9	1
		Maningrida	Maningrida School	3		18	
		Milingimbi	Milingimbi School	2		15	
		Ntaria	Ntaria School	2		10	
		Ramingining	Ramingining School	4		13	
		Santa Teresa	Ltyentye Apurte Catholic School	1		6	2
		Tennant Creek	Tennant Creek Primary School	2		10	
		Yirrkala	Yirrkala School	3		16	1
	Yuendumu	Yuendumu School	1		9	1	
	Totals Stage 1		37	0	167	30	
	Stage 2	Alyangula(Groote)	Alyangula Area School	1		2	
		Ampilatwatja	Ampilatwatja School	1		5	
		Angurugu	Angurugu School	3		12	2
		Bathurst Island	Murrupurtiyanwu	1	1	4	1
		Elliott	Elliott School			2	
		Jilkminggan	Jilkminggan School		1	2	2
		Kalkarindji	Kalkarindji School	1		5	
		Milyakburra	Milyakburra	1		1	
		Ngukurr	Ngukurr School	3	1	3	8
Numbulwar		Numbulwar School	1	1	2	4	
Papunya		Papunya School	1		4		
Tennant Creek	Tennant Creek High	1		5			
Umbakumba	Alyarmandumanja Umbakumba School	1		5			
Wadeye	OLSH						
Yarralin	Yarralin School	1		2			
Totals Stage 2		16	4	54	17		
Grand Totals Stage 1				73	5	314	67
Grand Totals Stage 2				31	13	115	72
Grand Totals				104	18	429	139

**ATTACHMENT B**

Table 1 - Attendance Rates, Queensland and Northern Territory Government Schools  
Average Term 1 Attendance Rates 2013-2014.

<b>School</b>	<b>Attendance Rate Term 1 2013 (%)</b>	<b>Attendance Rate Term 1 2014 (%)</b>	<b>Attendance Rate change 2013 - 2014 (% Points)</b>
<b>Northern Territory</b>			
Alekarenge School	56.4	59.7	3.3
Barunga School	78.4	72.9	-5.6
Borrooloola School	60.1	75.0	14.9
Bulman School	66.2	78.4	12.2
Epenarra School	55.1	61.4	6.3
Gapuwiyak School	62.0	72.2	10.2
Gunbalanya School	54.6	66.4	11.8
Lajamanu School	51.3	64.4	13.1
Maningrida School	49.3	62.9	13.6
Milingimbi School	47.5	55.8	8.4
Ntaria School	58.8	62.1	3.3
Ramingining School	60.9	69.4	8.5
Shepherdson College	51.6	58.7	7.0
Tennant Creek Primary	73.6	70.1	-3.5
Wugularr School	50.9	66.1	15.1
Yirrkala School	53.3	61.1	7.8
Yuendumu School	51.6	51.5	-0.2
<b>Queensland</b>			
Bwgcolman Community School	71.4	70.9	-0.4
Camooweal State School Primary	70.4	64.4	-6.0
Doomadgee State School	49.5	67.8	18.4
Mornington Island State School	65.6	73.6	7.9