

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2011-2012**

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

DEEWR Question No. EW1009_12

Senator Nash provided in writing.

Question

'Skills push target needs more work'

"Refer to AFR story 'Skills push target needs more work' – attached. It refers to two reports released by the COAG Reform Council last November that assess the performance on skills and education targets agreed by state, territory and Commonwealth governments. It states literacy and numeracy is improving among primary school students – does the department know the results for regional, rural and remote schools?"

Answer

The Department does not have NAPLAN results for geographic areas defined as "regional, rural and remote schools".

NAPLAN results are reported by the geolocation classification of: Metropolitan, Provincial, Remote and Very Remote. These classifications are determined by the Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs (MCEECDYA) Schools Geographic Location Classification System which is based on the locality of individual schools.

The table in **Attachment 1** shows the NAPLAN Reading and Numeracy results from 2008 to 2011 for Years 3 and 5 (primary school students) and the Writing results from 2008 to 2010 and for 2011 in a separate table. The results are shown in percentages at or above the national minimum standard.

The 2011 NAPLAN Writing results are shown in a separate table because in 2011 there was a change in the Writing genre from Narrative to Persuasive. This resulted in a break in the time series and results were reported against a separate scale to the Narrative Writing. This means the Persuasive results for 2011 should not be directly compared to the Narrative Writing results from earlier years.

The changes from 2008 to 2010/11 are shown in the shaded columns in the table. The greatest improvements in Reading, Writing and Numeracy since 2008 are in Year 3 Reading and Numeracy in Very Remote regions (9.6 and 9.8 percentage points respectively).