

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

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

Agency - Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority

DEEWR Question No. EW1183_12

Senator Mason asked on 16 February 2012 , Hansard page 31

Question

ACARA - NAPLAN

Senator MASON: Do we know what percentage of students sat the exam in that year—the year before 2008? Dr. Hill: It would all be on a state and territory basis and it would depend on local practice. Senator MASON: Even using that basis, do we know, in each individual state, what percentage of students sat that particular state or territory examinations? Dr. Hill: ACARA does not hold that information. Senator MASON: You do not hold that information. I am sure our friends in state government would be delighted to assist. Do you have the data from 2008? Dr. Hill: Yes. Senator MASON: What percentage of students sat the exam in 2011? Dr. Hill: We have the approximate numbers, but I do not have the exact percentage here. I can take that on notice and get it to you. The relevant figure would be very close to 100 per cent. The interest would be in the first or second decimal point, because it is very close to 100 per cent. Senator MASON: It is close to 100 per cent and you will provide the committee with the precise figure? Dr. Hill: We can provide that, yes.

Answer

ACARA has provided the following response.

What percentage of students sat the test in the year before 2008?

Prior to 2008, students in Years 3, 5 and 7 participated in national literacy and numeracy assessments, and participation rates were reported in the *National Report for Schooling in Australia* available online at <http://www.mceetya.edu.au/mceetya/anr/>.

In the *2007 National Report on Schooling in Australia*, the participation of students in literacy and numeracy assessments was reported for government and non-government school students as follows:

Literacy & numeracy participation rates %	Percentage of assessed government school students			Percentage of assessed non-government school students		
	Reading	Writing	Numeracy	Reading	Writing	Numeracy
Year 3	94.1	94.0	94.5	94.9	94.7	95.0
Year 5	94.5	94.5	94.8	95.3	95.2	95.5
Year 7	94.0	93.8	93.8	95.4	95.2	95.1

Common reporting was only provided for years 3, 5, and 7 and in the domains of reading, writing, and numeracy. The achievement of students in years 3, 5, and 7 was measured against the national benchmarks at that time for reading, writing and numeracy. Students who were absent or withdrawn from testing are not classified as assessed students and are not included in the benchmark calculations.

What percentage of students sat the test in 2011?

The *NAPLAN National Report for 2011* (available online at <http://www.nap.edu.au/>) reports the participation rate of students in each year tested and across each of the four domains assessed as per the following table:

NAPLAN participation rates % (approx)	Domain			
	Numeracy	Reading	Language Conventions	Writing
Year 3	95.7	95.6	95.9	95.4
Year 5	96.2	96.2	96.4	95.9
Year 7	96.0	96.2	96.3	95.6
Year 9	92.9	93.3	93.5	92.4

Participation rates are calculated for all assessed and exempt students as a percentage of the total number of students in the year level (as reported by schools), which includes those absent and withdrawn.