

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2013-2014**

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

Department of Education Question No. ED0386_14

Senator Wright provided in writing.

Questions

1. The National Action Plan on Literacy and Numeracy has been running from 2009. What costs have been spent on this program to date?
2. I understand that the last report on this topic by the Australian National Audit Office found that this program was not associated with significant improvement in performance.
3. A new report was due out this month. Is there any update on the latest findings on this topic? (Relevant transcript is at [Attachment A](#)).

Answers

1. The National Action Plan on Literacy and Numeracy has been running from 2009. What costs have been spent on this program to date?

\$540 million in funding appropriated to The National Action Plan on Literacy and Numeracy from 2008/09 to 2011/12 was expended on the *National partnership on literacy and numeracy* as follows:

- \$150 million was provided for facilitation payments (2009-2010)
- \$350 million was provided for reward payments (2011-2012) (of which \$64.2 million was withheld)
- \$40 million was provided for strategic initiatives.

\$243.9 million in funding appropriated to The National Action Plan on Literacy and Numeracy from 2012/13 to 2013/14 was expended on the *Improving Literacy and Numeracy National Partnership* as follows:

- \$242.0 million was allocated to schools through state and territory education authorities
- \$1.9 million was retained as Commonwealth own purpose expenditure, including for evaluation and costs associated with the Teach Learn Share database of literacy and numeracy strategies.

This NP has been rolled into school funding from 2014.

2. I understand that the last report on this topic by the Australian National Audit Office found that this program was not associated with significant improvement in performance.

The Australian National Audit Office conducted a performance audit of the National partnership on literacy and numeracy from August 2011 to June 2012. The report of this performance audit was tabled in Parliament on 14 June 2012, and noted that there was not a statistically significant improvement on the average NAPLAN results of schools that participated in the National partnership for literacy and numeracy.

3. A new report was due out this month. Is there any update on the latest findings on this topic? (Relevant transcript is at Attachment A).

All states and territories have now provided their final reports under the Improving Literacy and Numeracy National Partnership. These reports are currently being assessed.