

Sarah Redden
A/g Committee Secretary
SENATE EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT REFERENCES COMMITTEE

10 July 2023

Questions on notice:

Inquiry into the national trend of school refusal and related matters

Dear Ms Redden,

ACARA's response to the questions on notice from the inquiry into the national trend of school refusal and related matters is as follows.

- Please provide attendance data by year level
 - Do you collect data on reasons for absenteeism?
 - If so, please provide the categories you collect data against
 - Please provide the absenteeism data by year level and by category you collect this data under.

The National Student Attendance dataset is disaggregated by state/territory, school sector, Indigenous status, Gender, geolocation and year level. The dataset can be downloaded in its entirety at this link.

<https://dataandreporting.blob.core.windows.net/anrdataportal/ANR-ExcelDownloads/2022R1/Student%20attendance%20dataset.xlsx>

No data is collected on the reasons for absenteeism. The National Student Attendance dataset that is collected supports the Key Performance Measures in the National Measurement Framework for Schooling in Australia, as agreed by education ministers.

- Given the growing concern regarding school refusal has ACARA undertaken any analysis on the linkage between absenteeism for a student and student performance i.e., NAPLAN results?
 - If so, what insights has this analysis provided?
 - Please provide any data sets used or reviewed as part of this analysis.

ACARA does not hold data that would enable analysis of the linkage between absenteeism and student performance.

Yours sincerely

David deCarvalho
Chief Executive Officer