

Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2011-2012

Agency - Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority

DEWR Question No. CA0035_12

Senator Furner asked on 17 February 2012 , Hansard page 34

Question

ACARA - NAPLAN STATS – Far North Queensland

Senator FURNER: Also, just in general—and you may be able to give me a response, but if not then on notice—I have a NAPLAN snapshot in front of me, showing the national minimum standard improvement. That demonstrates some substantial improvements in Far North Queensland. For example, grade 3, over 2008-11 there is 18 per cent improvement in reading and 21.1 per cent improvement in numeracy compared with the state all-students average of 5.7 per cent in reading and 3.8 per cent in numeracy. Year 5 has an improvement of 10.2 per cent in reading in Far North Queensland compared with the state average of 1.7 per cent, and 7.7 per cent in numeracy compared with the state average of 2.1 per cent. If we jump to year 7, reading has an improvement of 12.7 per cent in Far North Queensland as opposed to the 2.1 per cent state average and so on. Clearly, there are substantial improvements in Far North Queensland according to the NAPLAN stats. Can you give an overall summary of why that improvement is so substantial in those years?

Ms Taylor: I will take that on notice, particularly regarding the specific area of Far North Queensland. There has clearly been a lot of work done in relation to improving the reading statistics. In particular, year 3 students are showing good outcomes. Clearly, there is still a lot to do but the sorts of numbers that you are talking about are indicative of other regions as well. Those figures you just read out for Far North Queensland, which are over and above the state average, certainly point to very impressive results. As I said, the year 3 reading overall has been quite impressive in the improvement we have seen, as has the year 3 numeracy as well. Having said that, I will take those questions on notice in reference to Far North Queensland.

Answer

ACARA has provided the following response.

Information on state practices or programs that might lead to improvements in NAPLAN results is not held by ACARA, but rather is the responsibility of state/territory governments. NAPLAN results are reported by ACARA in broad terms by geo-location (metropolitan, provincial, remote, very remote) within each state and territory, but not on a regional basis.