

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015**

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000070

Senator Lines, Sue asked on 05 March 2015, Hansard page 4

Also refer to Question No. SQ15-000071

Universal access national partnership

Question

Senator LINES: Thank you. In relation to each year since the universal access national partnership started in 2009 but particularly for recent years, including 2014, does the department have any data on how jurisdictions are meeting the enrolment and attendance targets?

Mr Cook: I think we can probably take that on notice, but I understand that in the PC report, which is now public, some of that data is included.

Senator LINES: Okay, but you will take it on notice. Can the department provide the most recent data to the committee?

Ms Paul: We are happy to take it on notice. I do not know when the most recent would be. Certainly exactly that sort of data fed into the review, of course, because it is one of the obvious and most important questions, but we will make sure we give you the most recent data if you like.

Senator LINES: Thank you. Can you do that along with baseline comparisons from 2009?

Ms Paul: Sure, if we have them. I am not sure whether we baselined in 2009 or not. I presume we did; so, if we did, we certainly will provide.

Answer

State and territory preschool enrolment baselines and performance-related information from 2008–2011 based on state and territory reports under National Partnership arrangements are set out in Table 1 below.

2012–2014 preschool enrolment data and 2012–2014 attendance data can be sourced from the ABS publication: *Preschool Education Australia* (Cat. No. 4240.0) located at www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4240.0

Table 1: State and territory preschool enrolment rates 2008–2011

	2008 baseline position %	2009 reported performance %	2010 reported performance %	2011 reported performance %
NSW	81.9	81.1 (attending)	86.2 ¹	88.9
VIC	95.8	96.2 (enrolled)	99.9	100
QLD	29	32 ² (attending in LDC, enrolled in kindergarten and pre-prep)	40 (enrolled) 38 (attending)	68
WA	95	95.4 (11 hrs)	73.8 (11 hrs) 26.2 (15 hrs) 97.5 (overall)	45.1 (11 hrs) 54.9(15 hrs) 97.8(overall)
SA	87.2	84.5 ³ (enrolled)	87.7	87.9
TAS	97.5	97.6 (enrolled)	97 96.1(attendance)	95.8 94.9 (attendance)
ACT	94	94 (enrolled)	95.4	94
NT	88.7	84.2 (enrolled)	88.4	90.5

Source: State and territory annual reports.

¹ The proportion is derived from calculations using existing counting rules — numerator comprises children in the preschool age group (3–5) enrolled an early childhood education programme in a government (4320), community preschool (47,905), and long day care service delivering a preschool programme (26,664), divided by the denominator which comprises NSW's estimated resident population of 4 year olds in 2010 (91,473).

² The figure provided includes children attending an early education programme in a long day care centre plus enrolments in kindergarten services and pre-prep on state schools.

³ The proportion of children in South Australia enrolled in an ECE programme has dropped since the baseline position was calculated. As at May 2009, an estimated 84.8% (15,551) of SA's four year old population were enrolled in DECS funded preschools, compared to 87.9% (16,020) of the four year old population in 2008.

⁴ The baseline for children enrolled in the Northern Territory was revised based on the 2009 actual which provides a more accurate baseline.