

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016**

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000032

Senator O'Neill, Deborah asked on 10 February 2016, Proof Hansard page 39

Literacy and numeracy test - Pass and fail rate records

Question

Senator O'NEILL: My question was do students who passed the standard and were above the cut-off mark get any feedback? Are they given a grade pass or is it just—

Mr Cook: It is a pass and fail, is my understanding.

Senator O'NEILL: Thank you. You did say that; I just wanted to clarify. Was there a bell curve or any skewed curve involved in the determination of where that pass mark happened, or was it just completely related to 30 per cent literacy requirement?

Mr Cook: The standard set is the 30 per cent requirement.

Senator O'NEILL: Does the department have the records of the pass and fail rate?

Ms Evans: AITSL does not hold any individual records, no.

Senator O'NEILL: Does the department?

Mr Cook: All information we receive is de-identified data. Universities and students receive information; the department does not.

Senator O'NEILL: So is this a question for outcome 1.2?

Mr Cook: Yes.

Senator O'NEILL: Could I indicate that I would like some detailed response to that: like, if it is held in any shape or form, what data you have around the pass and fail rate?

Answer

The test administrator for the 2015 limited implementation of the test, the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER), provided results to the department for the 2015 administrations of the test.

This data was de-identified and provided by higher education provider and test centre location.

Separate results were provided for literacy and for numeracy.

The high level aggregated results were released publicly by the Minister for Education and Training in a media release on 1 December 2015.

These results indicated that 92.3 per cent achieved the benchmark in the literacy component and 90.5 per cent achieved the benchmark in the numeracy component.