

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
 Supplementary Budget Estimates 19-23 October 2015

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 2: Indigenous
Topic: Remote School Attendance Strategy

Senator: Senator the Hon Jan McLucas

Question reference number: 311

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 4 December 2015

Number of pages: 2

Question:

In October 2014 Estimates, Remote School Attendance Strategy attendance data was provided from NT, QLD and NSW. The most recent data is only for the NT and QLD. What happened?

a. What is the Government doing to facilitate the public release of all jurisdictions' school attendance data?

Answer:

It is up to each State and Territory to agree to the release of their attendance data for RSAS Schools. The latest data that we have permission to release for NSW are provided.

Verified attendance rates, NSW RSAS Schools, Semester 1 2013-2015.

		Attendance rates			2015-2013
		2013	2014	2015	% point difference
School	Term	Yr 1-10	Yr 1-10	Yr 1-10	Yr 1-10
Boggabilla Central School	Term 1	81.8	80.8	69.1	-12.7
	Term 2	82.5	77.1	60.3	-22.2
	Semester 1	82.1	79.2	64.8	-17.3

Wilcannia Central School	Term 1	66.4	76.4	71.1	4.7
	Term 2	61.1	68.7	68.4	7.3
	Semester 1	64.0	72.9	69.7	5.7

Walgett Community	Term 1	77.0	76.8	76.7	-0.3
	Term 2	75.5	74.1	72.9	-2.6

College - Primary and High Schools	Semester 1	76.3	75.6	74.8	-1.5	
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Source: NSW Department of Education, Semester 1 2013-2015 attendance rates from return of absences collection

Notes:

1) In January 2015 the NSW Attendance Policy was amended. Students who are absent on extended family holidays must now be recorded as absent. Previously parents/carers could apply for exemption from attendance which meant the absences did not count for national reporting purposes.

2) Ongoing data quality improvements can result in changes to the business rules in reports and affect the comparability of data with previous years.

3) Walgett Community College (Primary School) introduced a new software package for recording absences at the beginning of 2015. Walgett Community College (High School) and Wilcannia Central School introduced new software packages for recording absences during 2013. Changes in attendance rates from 2013 to 2015 may be attributable, in part, to the changes in software packages.