

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace  
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

**Outcome 2 - Schools**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0208\_12**

**Senator Nash provided in writing.**

**Question**

**Smarter Schools: Literacy and Numeracy National Partnership**

Smarter Schools: Literacy and Numeracy National Partnership The DEEWR website states the Smarter School National Partnership for Literacy and Numeracy will provide \$540 million over four years (2009–2012) to 'facilitate and reward states and territories for implementing literacy and numeracy models or approaches that clearly demonstrate evidence for accelerating improvement in student results'. The website says up to 1022 schools around the country will receive assistance, with a focus on disadvantaged students. Many of the schools selected by states and territories to participate in this National Partnership are in rural and remote areas. • The website states up to 1022 schools will get assistance, can you be more specific? Up to can mean much less than the 1022. • What per cent of the total number of schools come from rural and remote areas? • How does the dept determine when results have been achieved? • Is there a target in the number of students that need to improve in literacy and numeracy.

**Answer**

According to the Department's most recent data (as at 21 April 2011)1068 schools have been nominated by their jurisdictions for participation in the Smarter Schools National Partnership for Literacy and Numeracy over the life of the National Partnership.Of these, 147 schools are also participating in the Low Socio-Economic School Communities National Partnership.

Schools from areas classified as Outer Regional, Remote and Very Remote using the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia represented 24.4 percent of Literacy and Numeracy National Partnership schools.

The COAG Reform Council assesses the achievement against state and territory targets for improvement under the Literacy and Numeracy National Partnership. On 19 April the COAG Reform Councilpublished their *National Partnership Agreement on Literacy and Numeracy: Performance Report for 2010*, available at: <http://www.coagreformcouncil.gov.au/reports/education.cfm>. This report sets out the achievement against each of the predetermined targets established by each State/Territory in their Final Implementation Plan. These targets are for improvement in student's literacy and numeracy outcomes, based on NAPLAN results and local measures.