

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

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

**Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth**

**DEEWR Question No.** EW0630\_12

**Senator Nash provided in writing.**

*Refers to previous DEEWR Questions [EW0208\\_12](#) and [EW0209\\_12](#)*

**Question**

**National Action Plan on Literacy and Numeracy**

"Following up on Question on Notice reply from budget estimates regarding the Smarter School National Partnership for Literacy and Numeracy – [http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/eet\\_ctte/estimates/bud\\_1112/answers/EW0208\\_12.pdf](http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/eet_ctte/estimates/bud_1112/answers/EW0208_12.pdf)  
[http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/eet\\_ctte/estimates/bud\\_1112/answers/EW0209\\_12.pdf](http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/eet_ctte/estimates/bud_1112/answers/EW0209_12.pdf) It 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. Senator Nash asked DEEWR to be more specific on the number of schools that will be assist (the website states up to 1022 schools), and what per cent of the total number of schools come from rural and remote areas. DEEWR replied schools from areas classified as Outer Regional, Remote and Very Remote using the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia represented 24.4 per cent of Literacy and Numeracy National Partnership schools. • What about 'inner regional' areas? DEEWR states around \$41mis being spent on in Literacy and Numeracy Pilots in Low SES Communities nationally from 2008–09 to 2010–11. There are 30 pilot initiatives that are working with disadvantaged students. DEEWR was asked how many of the pilots are taking place in rural, remote and regional areas. It stated 33.9 per cent of the schools participating in the pilots were located in areas classified as Outer Regional, Remote and Very Remote using the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA). • Again, ask about 'inner regional' areas? "

**Answer**

According to the Department's most recent data (as at 29 July 2011) 31.2 per cent of schools nominated by their jurisdictions for participation in the Smarter Schools National Partnership for Literacy and Numeracy were schools classified as Inner Regional using the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia.

27.6 per cent of the schools participating in the Literacy and Numeracy Pilots were located in areas classified as Inner Regional using the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia.

Note: The Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA+) is an index of the accessibility of places to service centres, or conversely of remoteness of places.

Remoteness Areas:

1. Major Cities - relatively unrestricted accessibility to a wide range of goods and services and opportunities for social interaction.
2. Inner Regional - some restrictions to accessibility of some goods, services and opportunities for social interaction.
3. Outer Regional - significantly restricted accessibility of goods, services and opportunities for social interaction.
4. Remote - very restricted accessibility of goods, services and opportunities for social interaction.
5. Very Remote - very little accessibility of goods, services and opportunities for social interaction.