

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012-2013**

Agency - Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority

DEEWR Question No. EW0695_13

Senator Mason asked on 18 October 2012 , Hansard page 11

“Refers to previous DEEWR Question No EW0138_13”.

Question

ACARA - Absenteeism

Senator NASH: Okay, I will have a look at it when it comes out and see if it is going to address it. In answer to a question on notice I think you said ACARA possesses all the information relating to the attendance of the tests, but not, clearly, the absenteeism. Mr Randall: Can you direct me to the question you have there please? Senator NASH: I think it EWO_13813—I think. Sorry, I may not have given you the correct one. Mr Randall: Just so that we are on the same page. Senator NASH: I do not have it with me to double check, but I think that is the one— Mr Randall: We have the aggregate data of the participation, but will not be able to break it down to a finer level. Senator NASH: Okay, so it is probably just a little bit loose to say that you possess all the information— Mr Randall: It may be a matter of the phrasing. Senator NASH: or most of the information. I was just a little confused. Perhaps I could get you to take on notice to clarify that for me.

Answer

ACARA has provided the following response to clarify EW0138_13:

ACARA holds the following national data in relation to NAPLAN participation:

- % in bands (including %exempt) by year level by domain by geolocation by jurisdiction
- % in bands (including %exempt) by year level by indigenous status by domain by geolocation by jurisdiction
- % in bands (including %exempt) by year level by parent education by domain by jurisdiction
- % in bands (including %exempt) by year level by parent occupation by domain by jurisdiction
- participation number and rate by jurisdiction by domain
- participation number and rate by jurisdiction by indigenous status by domain
- participation rates (%exempt, %absent, %withdrawn) by jurisdiction
- participation rates (%exempt, %absent, %withdrawn) by jurisdiction by indigenous status

These data are available in the NAPLAN National and Summary reports, available on the NAP website (www.nap.edu.au). These data sets cannot be disaggregated further.

ACARA also holds the following data in relation to school level NAPLAN participation:

- jurisdiction (state/territory)
- geolocation (metropolitan, provincial, remote, very remote)
- participation rate (% assessed, %exempt, %absent, %withdrawn) by year by year level by test domain

For the purposes of reporting on the *My School* website, ACARA holds data on the percentage of students absent for each NAPLAN test at each school undertaking NAPLAN tests and each school's location (metropolitan, provincial, remote and very remote). Participation data underpinning the *My School* website can be aggregated in some circumstances, but may not accord with values published in the national and summary reports as a result of rounding.

My School also shows student attendance rates, reporting the total (aggregated) attendance rate across year levels 1 to 10 for the relevant school. This is therefore not directly comparable with NAPLAN attendance rates at any given school. Definitions and the method of collection for attendance data also vary across states and territories.

In all cases, ACARA does not hold data that show on which day a student sat a test; just whether they sat it or not (assessed, exempt, withdrawn, absent), as the former has no bearing on program outputs.