

Supplementary Submission to the Inquiry into the Educational Achievement Gap in the ACT

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My original submission dated 4 November 2009 contained a table as follows (on page B-9 of Appendix B) that compared the 2008 NAPLAN results of the metropolitan areas of NSW, the ACT and VIC – in other words, the Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne metropolitan areas:

Summary of 2008 NAPLAN mean score ranks among ACT metro, NSW metro and VIC metro

Unit	# of 1 ranks	# of 2 ranks	# of 3 ranks	% of 1 ranks	% of 2 ranks	% of 3 ranks	Average Rank
NSW metro	8	6	6	40	30	30	1.9
ACT metro	5	4	11	25	20	55	2.3
VIC metro	7	11	2	35	55	10	1.75

The full report on 2009 NAPLAN results (as at http://www.naplan.edu.au/verve/resources/NAPLAN_2009_National_Report.pdf) was released in December 2009, hence enabling the rankings summary table as above for 2008 NAPLAN results to be established for the corresponding 2009 results, as follows:

Summary of 2009 NAPLAN mean score ranks among ACT metro, NSW metro and VIC metro

Unit	# of 1 ranks	# of 2 ranks	# of 3 ranks	% of 1 ranks	% of 2 ranks	% of 3 ranks	Average Rank
NSW metro	8	4	8	40	20	40	2
ACT metro	5	5	10	25	25	50	2.25
VIC metro	7	12	1	35	60	5	1.7

The following table now shows the differences, or "deltas", between the 2009 and 2008 NAPLAN results in terms of 2009 table entries minus the corresponding 2008 entries:

Changes in NAPLAN rankings from 2008 to 2009 among ACT metro, NSW metro and VIC metro

Unit	# of 1 ranks	# of 2 ranks	# of 3 ranks	% of 1 ranks	% of 2 ranks	% of 3 ranks	Average Rank
NSW metro	0	-2	2	0	-10	10	0.1
ACT metro	0	1	-1	0	5	-5	-0.05
VIC metro	0	1	-1	0	5	-5	-0.05

It is clear that the 2009 NAPLAN rankings are almost identical to the 2008 rankings, again showing that the ACT trails behind the Sydney and Melbourne metropolitan areas overall, despite having an overall average socio-economic status (in terms of parental education levels and income levels) that towers over that of both the Sydney and Melbourne metropolitan areas.