



Ms Rachel Simpson  
Committee Director  
Standing Committee on Social Issues  
NSW Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
**SYDNEY NSW 2000**

**SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE**

**23 APR 2008**

**RECEIVED**

Dear Ms Simpson

I write in response to your request to questions on notice after the Public Hearing of the NSW Inquiry into Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage held in Dubbo on 12 March 2008.

In relation to the Honourable Trevor Khan's request, a copy of a PowerPoint presentation indicating student performance data for Aboriginal students and all students in Murdi Paaki region schools and for Aboriginal and all students in NSW schools is provided.

Please note the following trends:

- The percentage of Aboriginal students in Murdi Paaki schools achieving national benchmarks has increased on all Year 3 and Year 5 indicators for literacy and numeracy.
- The percentage of Year 7 Aboriginal students in Murdi Paaki schools achieving national benchmarks has increased slightly or remained stable for literacy indicators.
- For all indicators except Year 7 Reading and Year 7 Numeracy, the increase in the percentage of Aboriginal students in Murdi Paaki schools achieving national benchmarks has been greater than for all students in Murdi Paaki schools.
- Apparent retention rates for Aboriginal students in Murdi Paaki schools from Year 7 to 10 has increased from 67% in 2004 to 79% in 2007.
- Apparent retention rates for Aboriginal students in Murdi Paaki schools from Year 7 to 12 has increased from 19% in 2004 to 25% in 2007.

The following response is provided in relation to issues raised through a submission to the Inquiry about the Murdi Paaki COAG Trial evaluation reports.

In 2005, the Murdi Paaki COAG Trial Steering Committee engaged *Urbis Keys Young* to undertake focus group interviews in six Murdi Paaki communities. Focus group interviews were held with Community Working Parties with follow up community meetings. Members of the Action Team facilitated the focus group interviews by liaising with Community Working Parties and key Aboriginal organisations.

The *Community Governance in the Murdi Paaki Region* report was drawn extensively from Community Working Party members' experiences of the Trial as the Community Working Parties were the key community engagement group for the Murdi Paaki region.

In 2006, the Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination undertook an evaluation of all Trial sites across Australia. As the Steering Committee had already commenced an evaluation of the Murdi Paaki COAG Trial through focus group interviews with Community Working Parties, the Steering Committee agreed to the Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination conducting the government to government phase of the Murdi Paaki *Monitoring and Evaluation Framework* in collaboration with Trial partners.

The following response is provided in relation to issues raised through two submissions to the Inquiry about Community Facilitators.

The NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet is the lead agency for the NSW government in the *Murdi Paaki Partnership Project*, which employs Community Facilitators for each of the 16 communities in the Murdi Paaki region.

The program is funded by the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet, the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

The recruitment process and appointment of the Community Facilitators was overseen by State and Australian Government officers at a senior level in the region. The program is monitored by a Steering Committee comprised of representatives from the funding agencies and the NSW Department of Aboriginal Affairs.

Facilitators are required to report monthly to their Reference Committees where membership is comprised of representatives from the Community Working Party, local business proprietors and Local Government. Community Facilitators are also required to report quarterly and these reports are collated and monitored by NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet and action is taken if required.

Plans to resolve such issues regarding Community Facilitators and Community Working Parties in future governance arrangements for the Murdi Paaki region need to be addressed to the funding agencies.

Yours sincerely



Louise Bye

**Coordinator, School Community Partnerships  
NSW Department of Education and Training**

21 April 2008



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# **Murdi Paaki**

## **Educational Update**

November 2007

**Trevor Fletcher**  
Deputy Director-General, Schools

# Murdi Paaki Primary Schools

Alma Public School

Cobar Public School

Morgan Street Public School

Bourke Public School

Coonamble Public School

Railway Town Public School

Broken Hill North Public School

Dareton Public School

Walgett Community College  
- Primary School

Broken Hill Public School

Enngonia Public School

Weilmoringle Public School

Burke Ward Public School

Gol Gol Public School

Wentworth Public School

Buronga Public School



# Murdi Paaki Central Schools

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- Brewarrina Central School
- Collarenebri Central School
- Goodooga Central School
- Gulgambone Central School
- Ivanhoe Central School
- Lightning Ridge Central School
- Menindee Central School
- Wilcannia Central School

# Murdi Paaki Secondary Schools

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- Bourke High School
- Broken Hill High School
- Cobar High School
- Coomealla High School
- Coonamble High School
- Walgett Community College - High School
- Willyama High School





# Basic Skills Test

Trends in literacy and numeracy  
from 2005 to 2007

# BST3 Literacy 2005 to 2007

## All Murdi Paaki students

Year	Mean	% Band 1	% Band 2	% Band 3	% Band 4	% Band 5	N
2007	47.5	24.4	21.0	28.2	18.1	8.3	386
2006	47.5	24.4	23.0	24.0	16.9	11.7	504
2005	46.2	30.4	18.2	26.7	16.8	7.9	506
2007 State	51.2	11.1	14.7	26.3	28.4	19.5	56496

The BST scale for literacy and numeracy runs from 25 to 80 scores



# BST3 Literacy 2005 to 2007

## Murdi Paaki Aboriginal students

Year	Mean	% Band 1	% Band 2	% Band 3	% Band 4	% Band 5	N
2007	43.1	44.5	27.7	21.8	5.9	0.0	119
2006	42.5	46.5	31.9	12.5	6.3	2.8	144
2005	39.9	62.4	17.0	13.5	7.1	0.0	141
2007 State ATSI	46.2	28.9	24.2	25.8	16.3	4.9	3192

# BST3 Numeracy 2005 to 2007

## All Murdi Paaki students

Year	Mean	% Band 1	% Band 2	% Band 3	% Band 4	% Band 5	N
2007	48.8	16.9	33.5	25.7	17.4	6.5	385
2006	49.7	22.2	21.2	24.2	17.5	14.9	504
2005	48.0	25.0	20.5	28.1	16.4	10.1	513
2007 State	53.1	8.6	20.0	25.6	26.6	19.3	56544



# BST3 Numeracy 2005 to 2007

## Murdi Paaki Aboriginal students

Year	Mean	% Band 1	% Band 2	% Band 3	% Band 4	% Band 5	N
2007	43.9	35.6	42.4	16.1	5.1	0.8	118
2006	43.3	48.6	27.1	13.2	8.3	2.8	144
2005	40.2	52.7	23.3	19.2	3.4	1.4	146
2007 State ATSI	47.5	22.2	31.6	25.6	14.8	5.6	3201

# BST5 Literacy 2005 to 2007

## Murdi Paaki Aboriginal students

Year	Mean	% Band 1	% Band 2	% Band 3	% Band 4	% Band 5	% Band 6	N
2007	48.6	16.0	28.8	28.8	13.6	9.6	3.2	125
2006	48.7	14.0	24.8	27.4	23.6	9.6	0.6	157
2005	47.0	20.1	29.3	23.8	17.1	7.3	2.4	164
2007 State ATSI	52.3	4.8	16.4	26.5	29	16.5	6.7	3360



# BST5 Numeracy 2005 to 2007

## All Murdi Paaki students

Year	Mean	% Band 1	% Band 2	% Band 3	% Band 4	% Band 5	% Band 6	N
2007	56.4	5.7	14.8	23.8	21.9	18.6	15.2	420
2006	56.3	2.7	15.0	22.7	27.6	19.6	12.4	515
2005	54.6	6.8	14.7	22.8	28.1	17.9	9.7	558
2007 State	61.9	1.0	5.5	15.3	23.6	21.9	32.6	57106

# BST5 Numeracy 2005 to 2007

## Murdi Paaki Aboriginal students

Year	Mean	% Band 1	% Band 2	% Band 3	% Band 4	% Band 5	% Band 6	N
2007	49.9	13.7	29.0	29.8	19.4	6.5	1.6	124
2006	50.6	7.1	29.0	29.7	23.9	8.4	1.9	155
2005	47.5	19.3	31.9	23.5	16.9	6.6	1.8	166
2007 State ATSI	54.6	3.6	14.9	31.4	27.4	14.1	8.7	3366

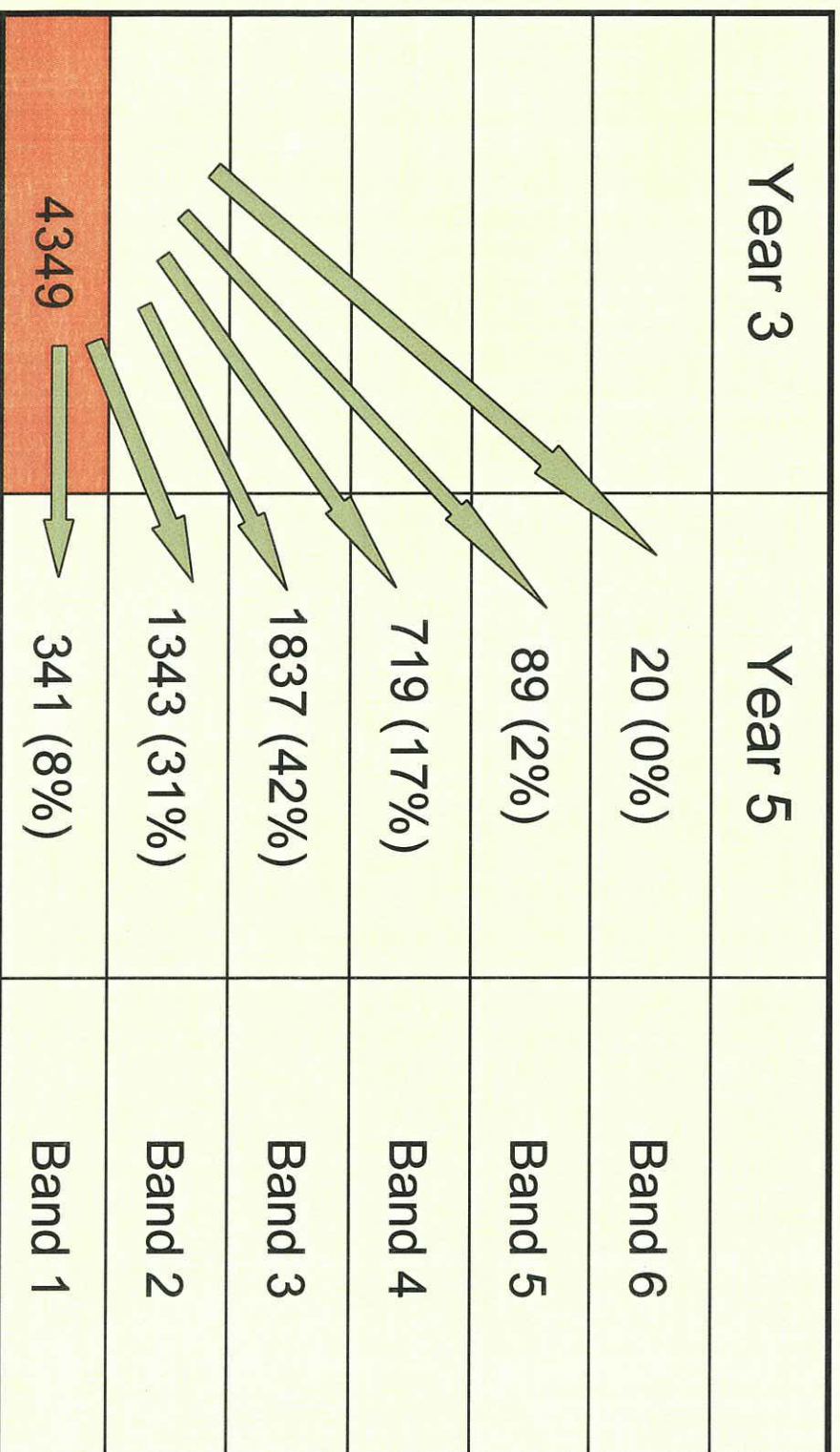


# Growth of Low Performing Students, 2007

## Literacy - All Students

### State

Year 3	Year 5	
	20 (0%)	Band 6
	89 (2%)	Band 5
	719 (17%)	Band 4
	1837 (42%)	Band 3
	1343 (31%)	Band 2
4349	341 (8%)	Band 1



# Growth of Low Performing Students, 2007

## Numeracy - All Students

### State

Year 3	Year 5	
	24 (1%)	Band 6
	113 (3%)	Band 5
	597 (17%)	Band 4
	1460 (42%)	Band 3
	1085 (31%)	Band 2
3486	207 (6%)	Band 1

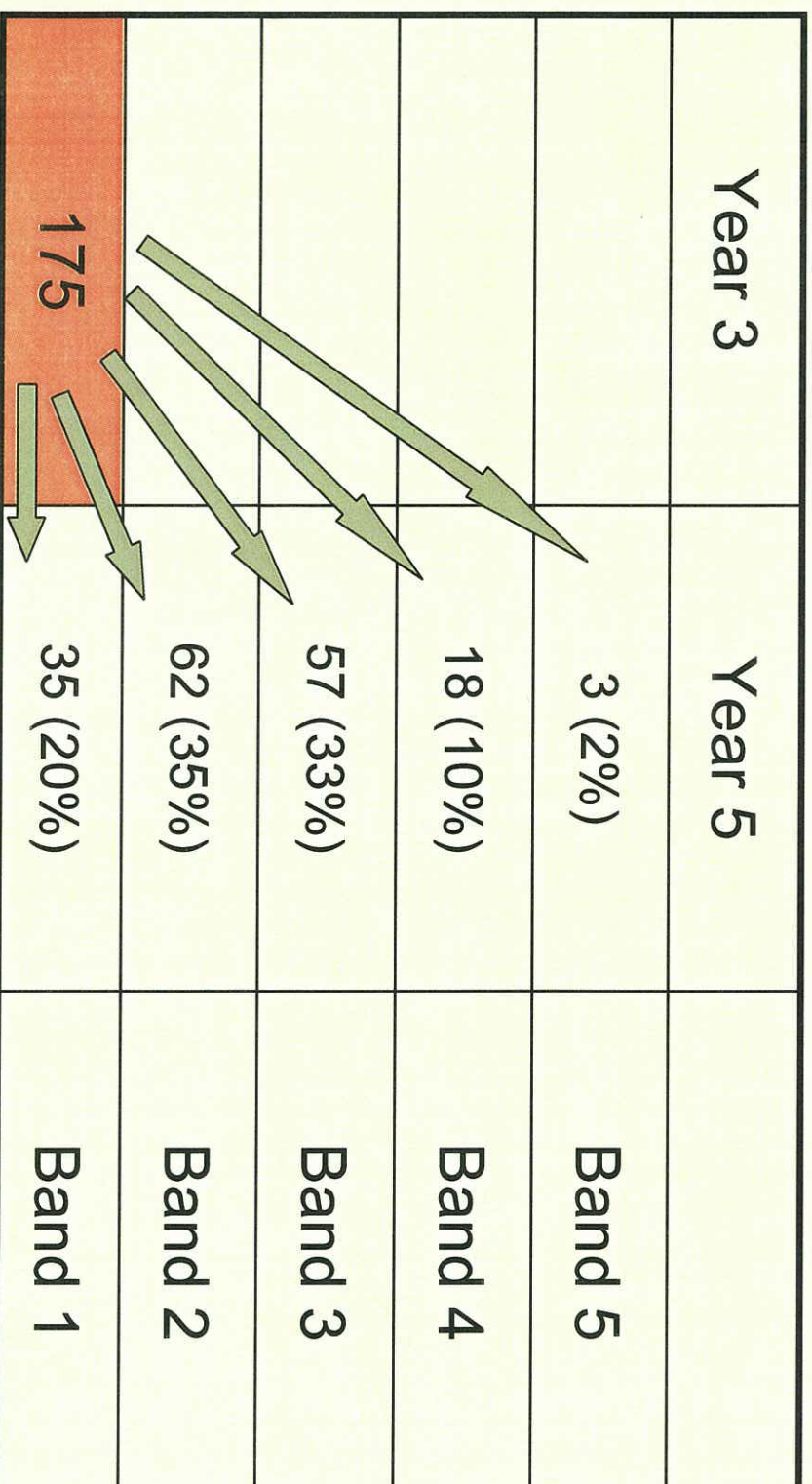


# Growth of low performing students

## Literacy - All students

### Murdi Paaki

Year 3	Year 5	
	3 (2%)	Band 5
	18 (10%)	Band 4
	57 (33%)	Band 3
	62 (35%)	Band 2
	35 (20%)	Band 1
175		



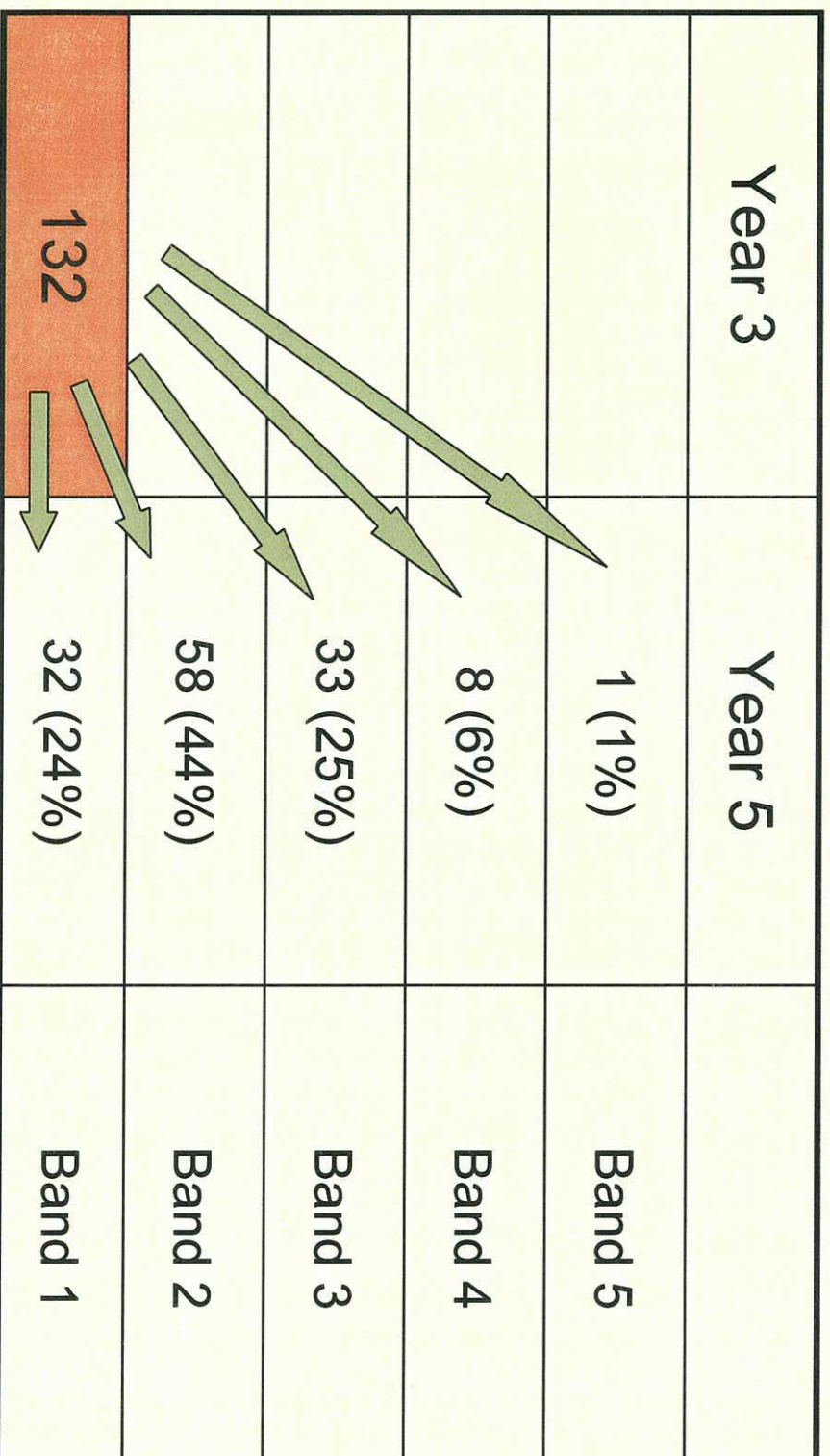
- Student numbers for 2005, 2006 and 2007 have been combined to map this progress

# Growth of low performing students

## Literacy - Aboriginal students

### Murdi Paaki

Year 3	Year 5	
	1 (1%)	Band 5
	8 (6%)	Band 4
	33 (25%)	Band 3
	58 (44%)	Band 2
132	32 (24%)	Band 1



- Student numbers for 2005, 2006 and 2007 have been combined to map this progress

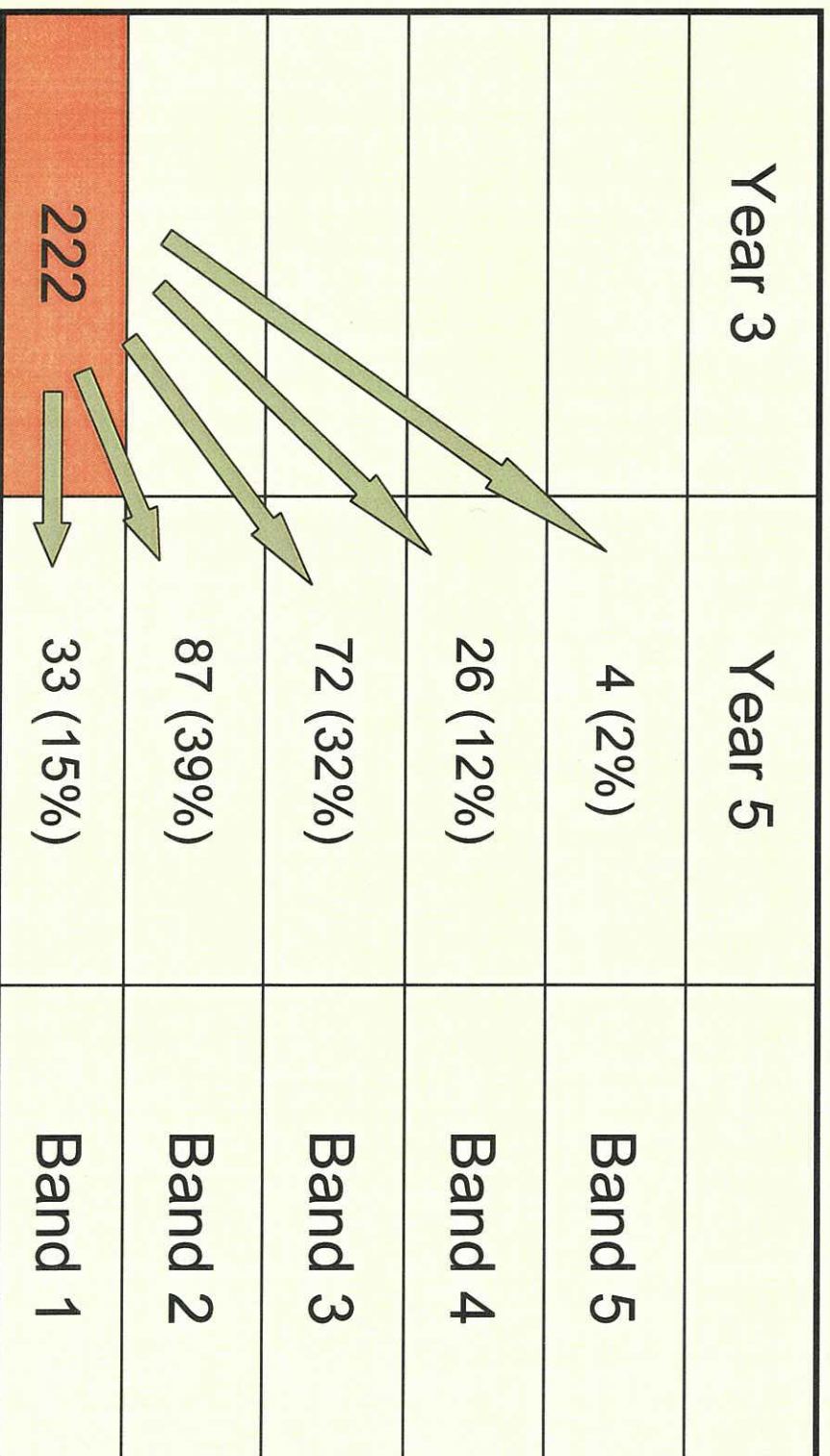


# Growth of low performing students

## Numeracy - All students

### Murdi Paaki

Year 3	Year 5	
	4 (2%)	Band 5
	26 (12%)	Band 4
	72 (32%)	Band 3
	87 (39%)	Band 2
222	33 (15%)	Band 1



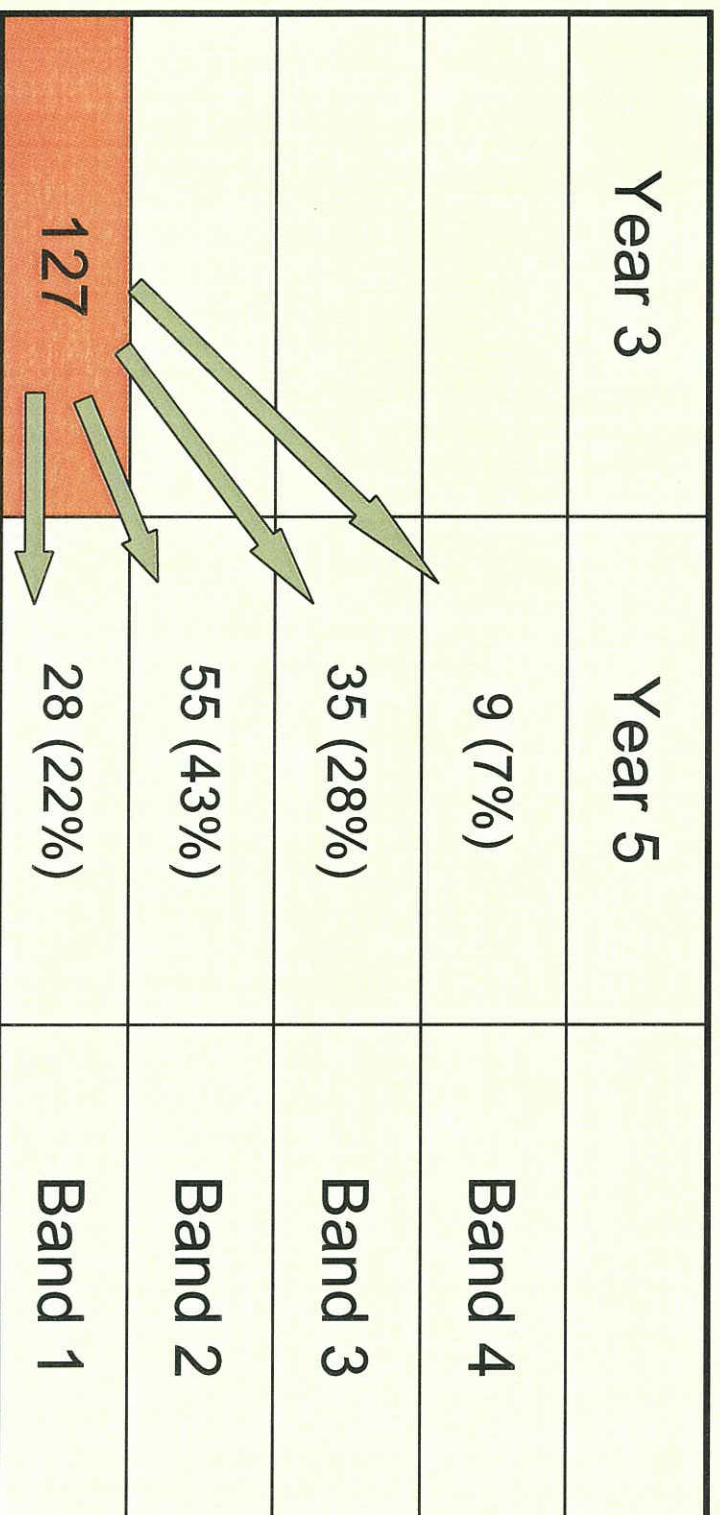
- Student numbers for 2005, 2006 and 2007 have been combined to map this progress

# Growth of low performing students

## Numeracy - Aboriginal students

### Murdi Paaki

Year 3	Year 5	
	9 (7%)	Band 4
	35 (28%)	Band 3
	55 (43%)	Band 2
127	28 (22%)	Band 1

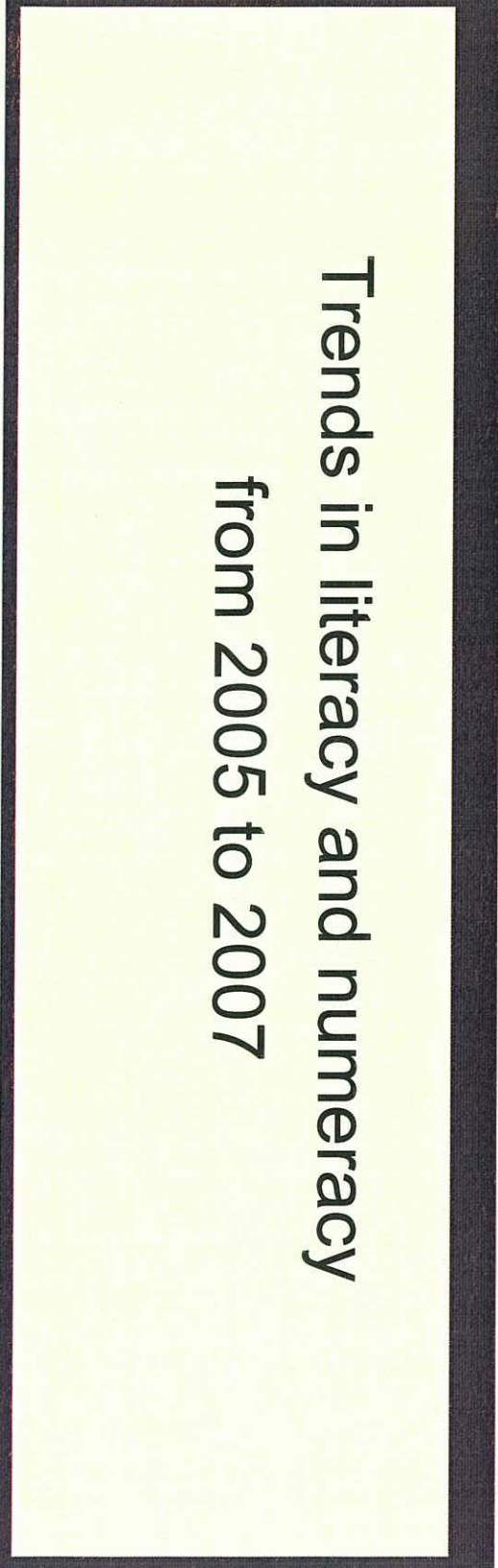


- Student numbers for 2005, 2006 and 2007 have been combined to map this progress





# SNAP and ELLA



Trends in literacy and numeracy  
from 2005 to 2007

# Growth of low performing students, 2007

## ELLA Literacy - All students

State		
Year 7	Year 8	
	5 (0%)	High
	109 (8%)	Proficient
	659 (47%)	Elementary
1404	631 (45%)	Low



# Growth of low performing students

## ELLA Literacy - All students

### Murdi Paaki

Year 7	Year 8	
	7 (4%)	Proficient
	76 (44%)	Elementary
172	89 (52%)	Low

- Student numbers for 2005, 2006 and 2007 have been combined to map this progress

# Growth of low performing students ELLA Literacy - Aboriginal students

## Murdi Paaki

Year 7	Year 8	
	3 (3%)	Proficient
	45 (43%)	Elementary
104	50 (54%)	Low

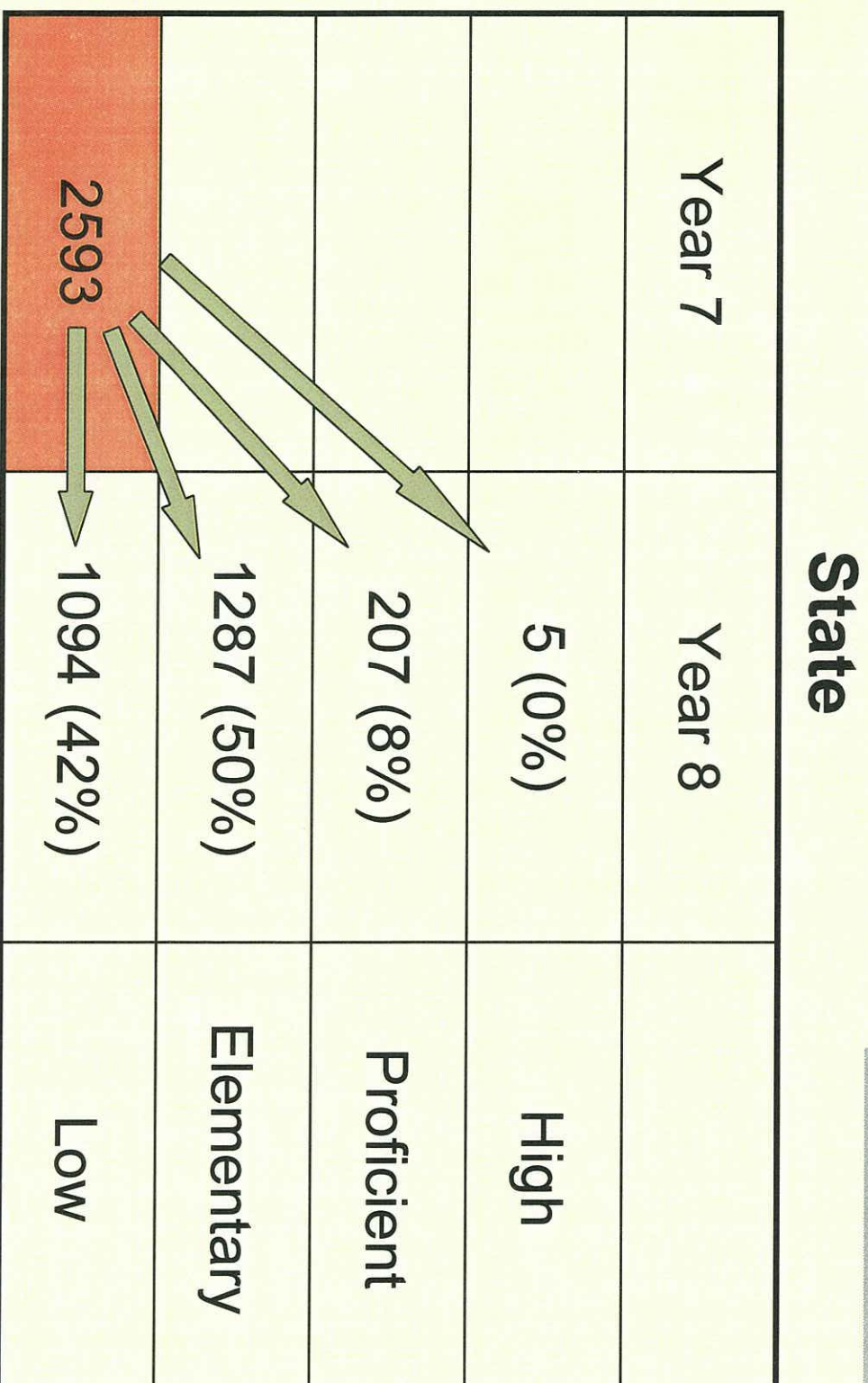
- Student numbers for 2005, 2006 and 2007 have been combined to map this progress



# Growth of low performing students, 2007

## SNAP Numeracy - All students

State		
Year 7	Year 8	
	5 (0%)	High
	207 (8%)	Proficient
	1287 (50%)	Elementary
2593	1094 (42%)	Low

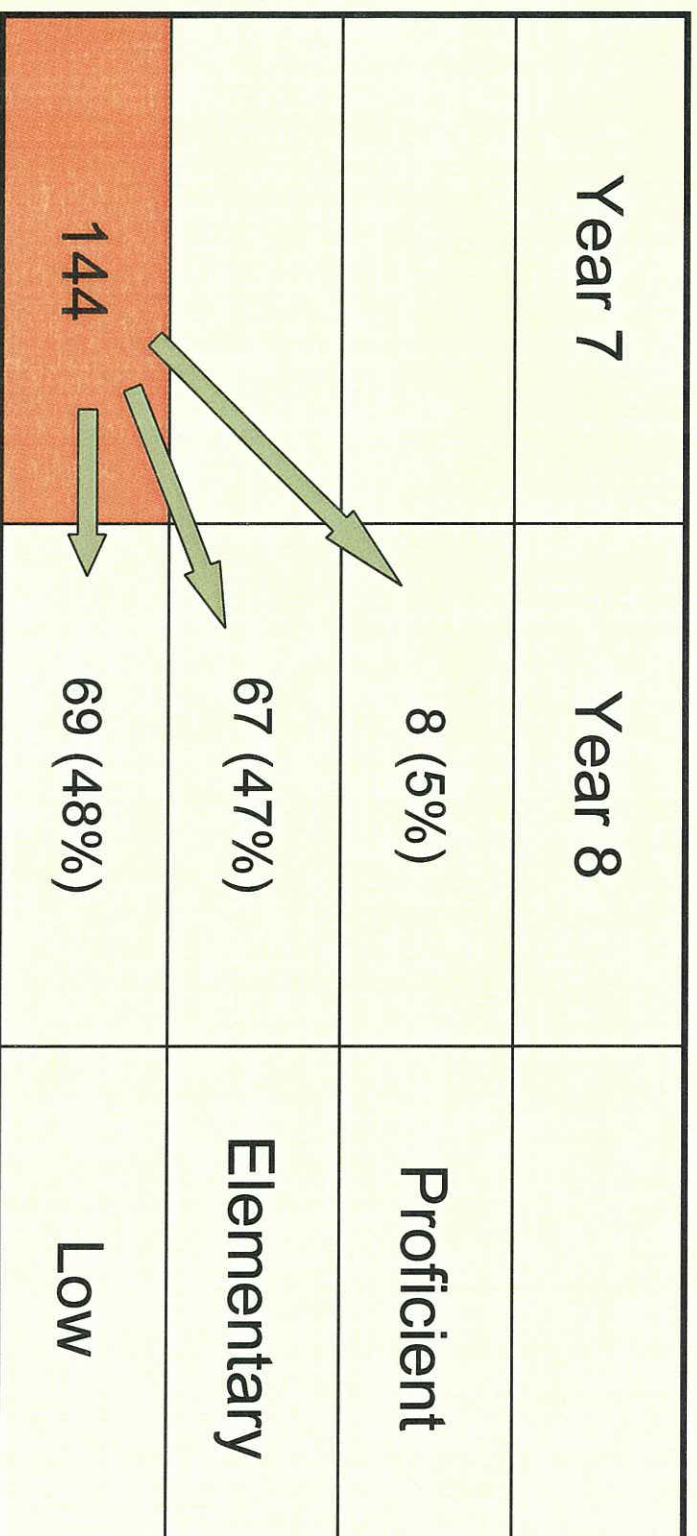


# Growth of low performing students

## Numeracy - All students

### Murdi Paaki

Year 7	Year 8	
	8 (5%)	Proficient
	67 (47%)	Elementary
144	69 (48%)	Low



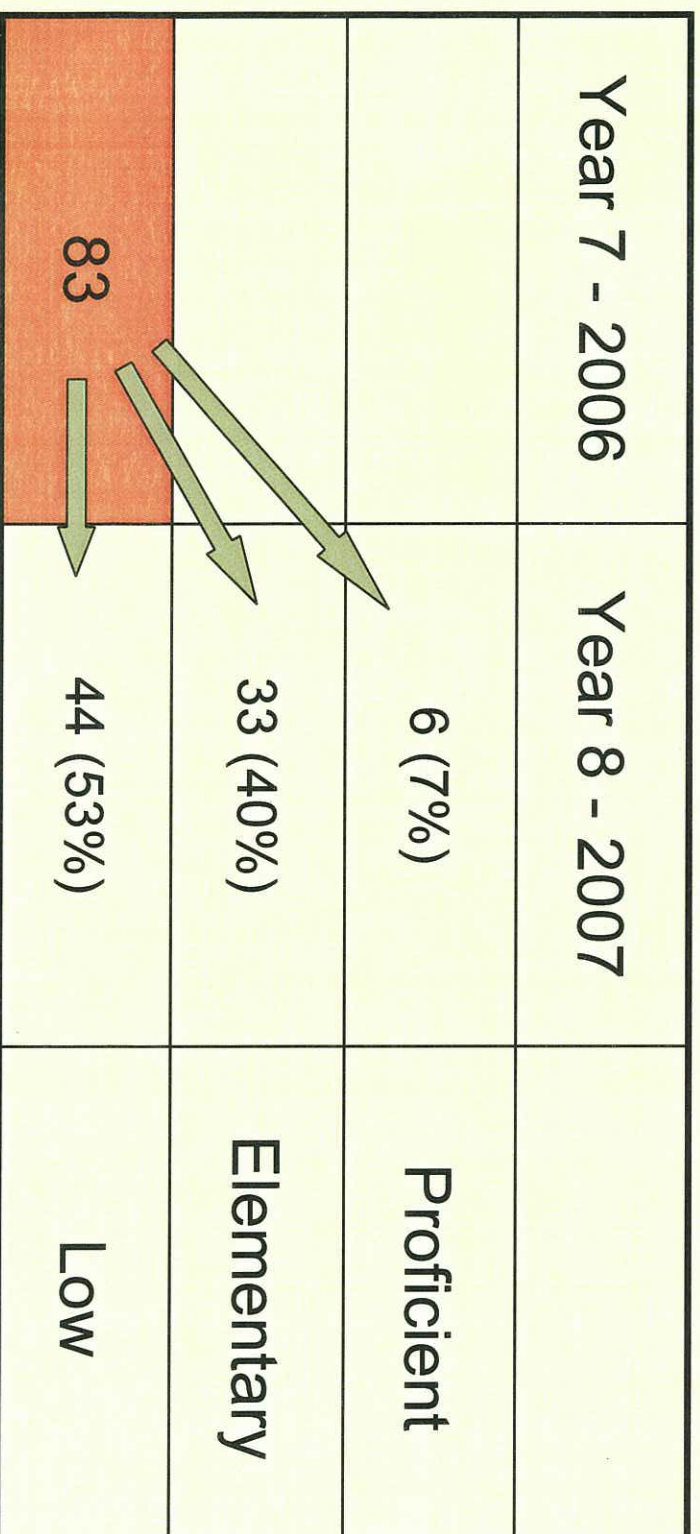
- Student numbers for 2005, 2006 and 2007 have been combined to map this progress



# Growth of low performing students Numeracy - Aboriginal students

## Murdi Paaki

Year 7 - 2006	Year 8 - 2007	
	6 (7%)	Proficient
	33 (40%)	Elementary
83	44 (53%)	Low



- Student numbers for 2005, 2006 and 2007 have been combined to map this progress