

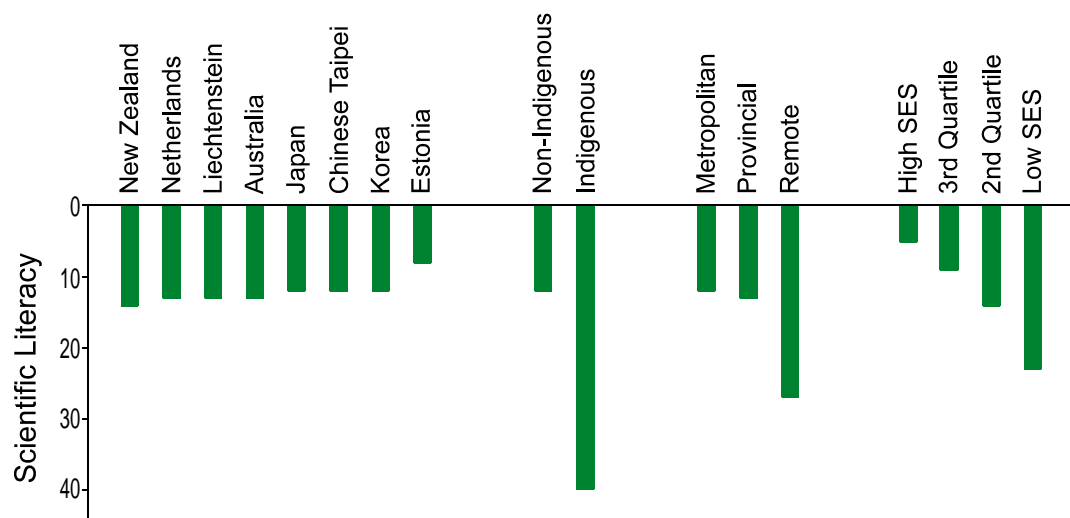
Does Australia have a World-Class Education System? Evidence from PISA 2006

At Risk Students

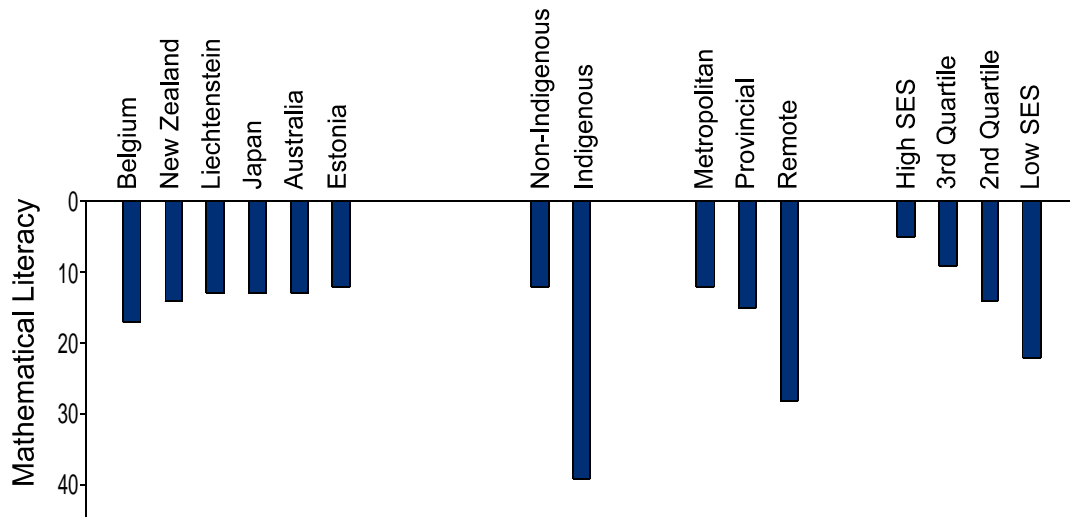
PISA identifies a ‘baseline’ proficiency level in each of Science Literacy, Mathematical Literacy and Reading Literacy. Students performing below this baseline are judged by the OECD to be “at serious risk of not achieving at levels sufficient to allow them to adequately participate in the 21st century workforce and contribute as productive citizens”.

The following graphs show the percentages of students below the baseline in the three PISA assessment domains. The countries on the left of each graph performed at the same average level as Australia. The percentages of Australian non-Indigenous students, Indigenous students, students in Metropolitan, Provincial and Remote schools, and four socioeconomic status (SES) quartiles also are shown.

In Scientific Literacy, 13 per cent of Australian students were below the baseline and thus were judged to be ‘at risk’. While this is clearly a matter for concern, it also should be noted that Australia did not have an unusually long tail of underachievement. Of particular concern is the fact that 40% of Indigenous students, 27% of students in Remote schools and 23% of students in the lowest SES quartile performed below the baseline.



In Mathematical Literacy, 13 per cent of Australian students were below the baseline and thus were judged to be 'at risk'. Among countries with the same average level of Mathematical Literacy achievement, Australia did not have an unusually long tail of underachievement. Again, of particular concern is the fact that 39% of Indigenous students, 28% of students in Remote schools and 22% of students in the lowest SES quartile performed below the baseline.



In Reading Literacy, 14 per cent of Australian students were below the baseline and thus were judged to be 'at risk'. Among countries with the same average level of Reading Literacy achievement, Australia did not have an unusually long tail of underachievement. In Reading Literacy 38% of Indigenous students, 24% of students in Remote schools and 23% of students in the lowest SES quartile performed below the baseline.

