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The presentation is a 1st year PhD review proposal.

Title: Managing nonresponse in Australian educational surveys

Abstract: Each year, a number of large scale surveys of Australian students are conducted. Policy-makers have in recent years have specifically pursued a policy of “using data collections to improve Australian education”. The respective levels of government have jointly established a national framework for survey activity, including assessments of literacy and numeracy proficiency undertaken annually by all students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 (known as NAPLAN), and a number of national and international student sample surveys. NAPLAN results at the school level (means and distributions) are published on the MySchool website, which compares individual schools with other schools deemed similar based on socio-economic profile as measured by the Index of Socio-Economic Advantage (ICSEA). Each of the NAP surveys experiences non-response, and an important challenge for each survey is to manage potential non-response bias. To date non-response adjustments have not incorporated the information collected through NAPLAN, or the ICSEA measure. My proposal is to investigate the extent to which the non-response adjustments currently being implemented in these surveys appear to be addressing survey bias, and whether adjustments that incorporate this additional information might be improved with respect to precision, bias and complexity.