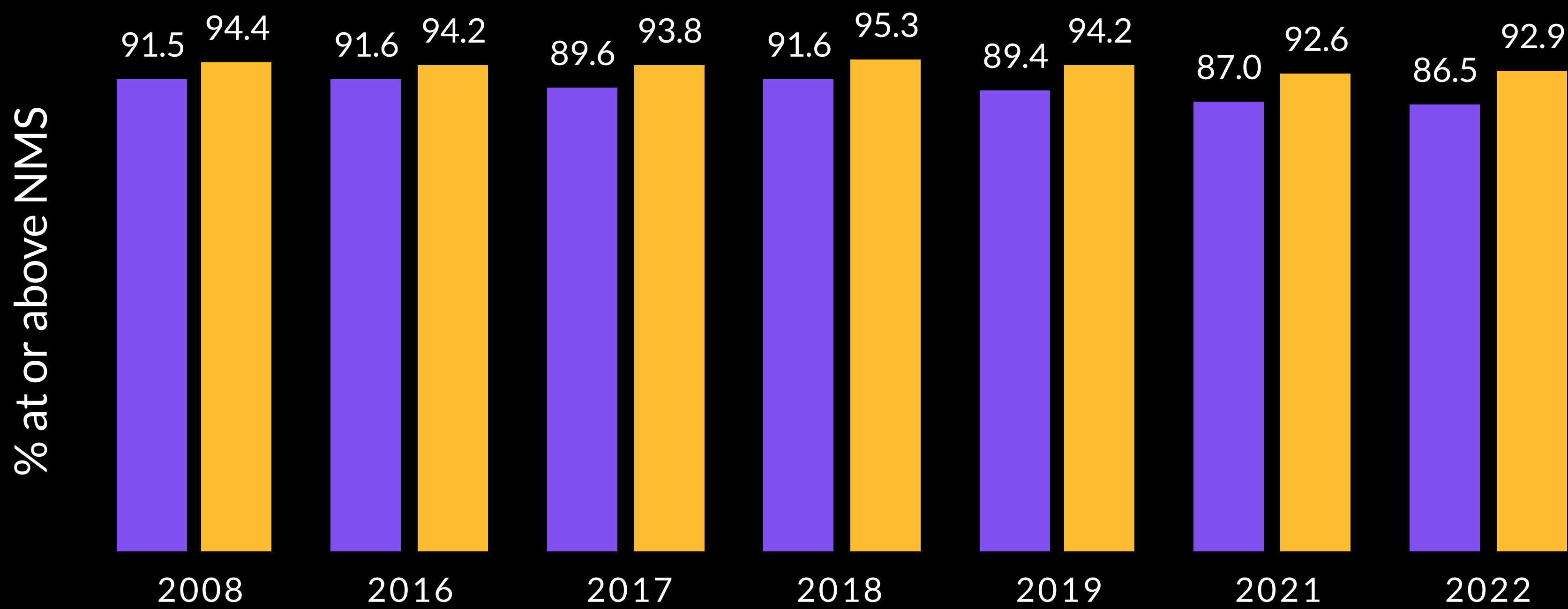


Basic literacy skills and the gap between male and female students by year 9

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests have been conducted across Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in Australia since 2008. The national minimum standard (NMS) is the 'agreed minimum acceptable standard of knowledge and skills without which a student will have difficulty making sufficient progress at school'. Here we look at the percentage of male and female year 9 students at or above the NMS for Reading and Writing, over time.

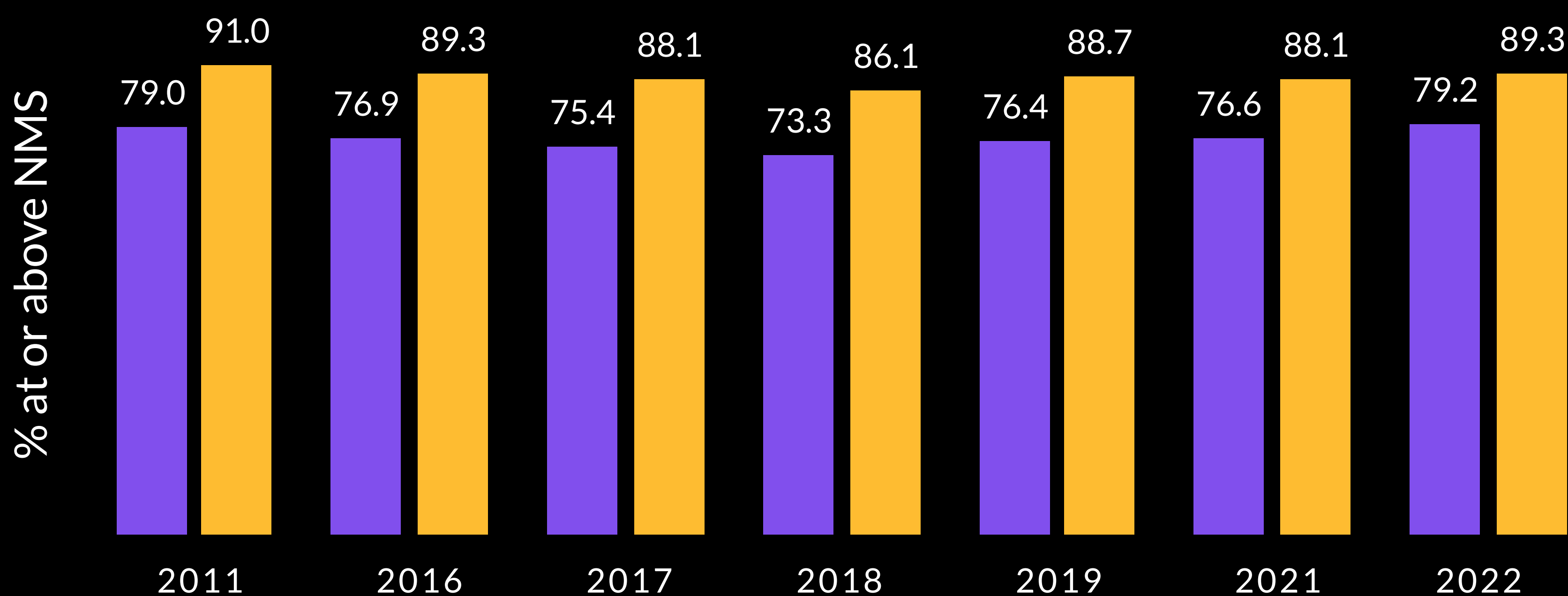
Key male students ● female students ●

Reading



A greater proportion of female students are achieving at or above the NMS for Reading and Writing. In Reading, the gap has increased from 2.2% in 2016 to 6.4% in 2022. In Writing the gap between female and male students has closed from a high of 12.8% in 2018 to 11.1% in 2022. Will these trends continue in 2023?

Writing



Source: Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority [ACARA]. (2022). *National Assessment Program, Literacy and Numeracy, achievement in reading, writing and numeracy: National Report for 2022*. ACARA.

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