Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017

Outcome: Agency: ACARA

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-001050

Senator O'Neill, Deborah asked on 20 October 2016, Proof Hansard page 100

ACARA - NAPLAN online

Question

Senator O'NEILL: Have you undertaken consultation with security agencies on this?
Mr Randall: Yes. And, again, if you want—we know some of it, but—
Senator O'NEILL: I might get some more detail.
Mr Randall: Maybe between us and the department we could give you more of the detail that we are going through. But absolutely. It is quite detailed. And, again, a discussion we had yesterday at the Online Assessment Working Group is an example of the extent to which ESA is going to work through all the security issues.

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Mr Cook: Just to be very clear, NAPLAN online is very, very different to the website that the Census operated. That was a public website that you went to, and NAPLAN will not be like that; we will not go into detail, for obvious reasons.
.....
Mr Cook: The NAPLAN testing site does not have a public face in that sense. But we are happy to provide some of that information for you later.

Answer

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) has provided the following response

The development of the platform has been guided by relevant national data security policies and guidelines including the Protective Security Policy Framework and the Information Security Manual. Furthermore, the Australian Signals Directorate (ASD) will continue to provide security advice and guidance to the developer, Education Services Australia (ESA), as the system is developed and implemented.

We can confirm that on the advice of ASD, ESA is undertaking a specific security assessment of the platform and service providers known as an IRAP (information security registered assessors program) assessment. In addition, internal and independent load, vulnerability and penetration tests have been undertaken. These tests have informed approaches to security and performance for the platform.