

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2012-2013**

Agency - Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority

DEEWR Question No. EW0103_13

Senator Boyce provided in writing.

Question

ACARA - NAPLAN incidents

Can you confirm how many instances of cheating and other breaches were committed by participating students, and the number committed by educators or test administrators during NAPLAN testing in 2010 and 2011?

Answer

ACARA has provided the following response.

Given that NAPLAN tests are sat by more than one million students in almost 10,000 schools across the country, the number of cheating and other breaches is very low (see table below).

It should be noted that under section 3.2 of the *Guidelines for Managing Test Incidents in Schools*:

- 'Acts of student academic misconduct during the tests, such as cheating, are to be dealt with through schools' existing procedures unless they involve a breach of the National Protocols ...'

Information on instances/allegations of individual students cheating in NAPLAN tests are managed directly by schools and are not required to be notified to ACARA.

The following table provides information on the number of substantiated instances of cheating, security breaches and other general breaches by educators and/or test administrators in 2010 and 2011.

Incident category	Substantiated		Unsubstant.		Under investigation		Total	
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
Cheating Breach (C) - intent to gain an unfair advantage or improperly influence test results	12	9	14	13	3	0	29	22
Security Breach (S) - where early knowledge of test content is obtained which has the potential to compromise the integrity of the test results	10	12	3	2	0	0	13	14
General Breach (G) - includes all other administrative practices that are not in accordance with the agreed protocols, but which do not amount to cheating or affect test security	12	33	9	6	0	0	21	39
Total	34	54	26	21	3	0	63	75

Reports of improper conduct (54 substantiated in 2011 and 34 in 2010) are extremely low in the context of the number of schools and students participating across the country, and the number of tests being sat each year. Full details are available in the reports –

http://www.acara.edu.au/verve/_resources/2011_NAPLAN_Test_Incidents_Report.pdf

http://www.acara.edu.au/verve/_resources/2010_NAPLAN_Test_Incidents_Report.pdf