

**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. EW0318_13

Senator Mason asked on 30 May 2012 , Hansard page 8

Question

ACARA - Number of Withdrawn Students

Senator MASON: You mentioned that you have the numbers. Can you provide the committee with those numbers? Mr Adams: We can certainly give the number of withdrawn students. Senator MASON: Can you give the number of people withdrawing in advance—that wrote in advance of the day to say they would not be attending? Mr Randall: As opposed to those who just did not turn up? Senator MASON: Yes. Mr Adams: We do not have that data. The states and territories would keep that. Senator MASON: Can you get that data for us? Mr Adams: We can seek to get that from our state and territory colleagues.

Answer

ACARA has provided the following response.

As per the 2012 *National Protocols for Test Administration*:

5.4.1 Students may be withdrawn from the testing program by their parent/carer.

This is a matter for consideration by individual parents/carers in consultation with their child's school. Withdrawals are intended to address issues such as religious beliefs and philosophical objections to testing, and;

5.4.3 Withdrawn students are not counted as part of the cohort of assessed students.

Student withdrawals from NAPLAN testing, by definition, must be notified to school principals in advance of the tests. Students who do not turn up for the tests are recorded as 'absent'.

Test Administration Authorities, in general, do not keep a record of when/how far in advance of the NAPLAN tests withdrawals are received.

The following information demonstrates the number of students in 2011, across Australia, withdrawn from NAPLAN testing as a figure and as a percentage of the total number of students in each year level.

2011 Year Level	Number of students withdrawn from testing							
	Reading		Writing		Language Conventions		Numeracy	
Year 3	4,352	1.6%	4,366	1.6%	4,328	1.6%	4,103	1.5%
Year 5	3,173	1.25	3,201	1.2%	3,141	1.1%	3,051	1.1%
Year 7	2,020	0.7%	2,005	0.7%	1,993	0.7%	1,973	0.7%
Year 9	2,570	1.0%	2,542	0.9%	2,540	0.9%	2,570	1.0%