

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 2009-10**

Outcome 2

DEEWR Question No. EW440_10

Senator Hanson-Young provided in writing.

Question

Reliability and validity of NAPLAN results

What research has been undertaken by the Federal Government or commissioned to determine the reliability and validity of the NAPLAN results and whether comparing school results is a valid use of the data?

Answer

An Expert Advisory Group (EAG), consisting of five preeminent Australian educational measurement experts provides advice on test development and endorses the NAPLAN tests before they are finalised. The EAG also provides advice and endorses key technical methods and specifications for reporting, equating and standards.

The 2009 NAPLAN tests went through a rigorous development process, including examination of the test questions by literacy and numeracy curriculum and educational measurement experts from around the country. In addition, the EAG checked the tests for measurement validity. The Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) and the EAG advise that NAPLAN is fit for purpose and represents “world’s best practice in the ability to measure student progress” (*Reporting and Comparing School Performance* - ACER DEC2008, available on the MCEECDYA website).

ACER advised that NAPLAN could be used to compare school results if a like schools methodology was developed.