

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

Agency - Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority

DEEWR Question No. EW0553_12

Senator Boyce provided in writing.

Question

ACARA - NAPLAN- English proficiency

What accommodation is made for students with, for example, cognitive disability or lower standards of English proficiency?

Answer

ACARA has provided the following response.

All students in Years 3, 5, 7 & 9 are expected to participate in the NAPLAN tests. They are a moment-in-time indication of how students across the country are performing in foundation areas of literacy and numeracy against national common scales and are not a pass-fail type of test.

Students with disability may be permitted certain adjustments to enable their access to the tests on an equitable basis to students without disability provided that the integrity of the test results is maintained.

Students with significant intellectual disability and/or those with significant co-existing conditions (ie co-morbidity) which severely limit the student's capacity to participate may be exempted from sitting the national tests. This is determined after consultation has occurred by the principal with the relevant parent/carer, and if the student is not able to access the tests with adjustments.

Students with a language background other than English, who arrived from overseas and have been attending school in Australia for less than a year before the test, should be given the opportunity to participate in testing, but may be exempted.