

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

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

Outcome 2 – Schools and Youth

DEEWR Question No. EW0730_13

Senator Mason asked on 18 October 2012 , Hansard page 87

Question

Diagnostic Tools

Ms Bloor: It is an additional capacity that they have, yes. They can now also develop their own test items within the tool and link those two resources in the repository.

Senator MASON: Do many teachers actually use this website for that purpose? Ms

Bloor: I will take the precise numbers on notice, but we understand from ESA the uptake has been very promising.

Answer

The above question is taken to be a reference to the *Improve* online assessment tool.

Initially, the teacher element of the Australian Government's Online Diagnostic Tools initiative has been progressed through the *Improve* online assessment tool (www.improve.edu.au). *Improve* has been developed by Education Services Australia (ESA) and was made nationally available in December 2011.

The *Improve* tool provides teachers with access to ready-made test questions and tests in key learning areas and the capacity to create and share their own questions and tests. The tool assists teachers to monitor student progress and supports differentiated learning by linking students to online practice activities based on individual results. The tool also measures students' confidence in their answers. This can help teachers better understand individual student performance, and can also help to indicate the degree to which entire an entire class is 'confident' with a concept before moving on to the next topic.

As at October 2012, approximately 7 600 teachers and 57 000 students were registered *Improve* users. Trends indicate registrations for teachers and students are steadily increasing over time.