

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016**

Outcome: Agency: ACARA

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000198

Senator McKenzie, Bridget provided in writing

ACARA: Online Tests

Question

What will be the benefits of having the tests online for student and teachers?

Answer

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) has provided the following response.

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) online will provide better assessment, more precise results and faster turnaround of information.

Some of the main benefits of students taking part in NAPLAN online include:

- NAPLAN results will be available within weeks rather than months.
- NAPLAN online will use 'tailored testing' which gives students questions better suited to their ability, resulting in better assessment and more precise results. Students will answer an initial set of questions and then be directed to subsequent sets of questions based on the correctness of their responses. Students with a high number of questions correct will be directed to more challenging questions. Students who have a lower level of accuracy in the initial set of questions will be directed to questions that are less challenging.
- Tailored testing will provide teachers and schools with more targeted and detailed information on their students' performance on the tests. The precision and improved timing of the results will help teachers tailor their teaching more specifically to student needs.
- Use of a computer-based environment provides the opportunity to broaden the scope of the assessments.
- ACARA research into online assessment has shown that students have engaged well with computer-based tests.
- As technology develops, ACARA aims to further refine the delivery of the tests to best use the available technology to provide increasingly sophisticated assessments.