

**Senate Committee: Education and Employment**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017**

**Outcome: Agency: ACARA**

**Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000451**

Senator Collins, Jacinta provided in writing

***ACARA - NAPLAN online testing***

**Question**

Will NAPLAN online testing results be comparable to the paper testing results?

- With online testing, how is ACARA ensuring that students who take the online test and those who take the paper test will be testing the same competencies?

**Answer**

*The Australian Curriculum Assessment & Reporting Authority (ACARA) has provided the following response:*

ACARA has committed to the following forms of comparability with the move to NAPLAN online:

- Comparability between online and paper results in 2017 and beyond
- Comparability with previous paper results (2008–2016) to maintain trend lines

To ensure comparability, ACARA has utilised a combination of design features and research studies. From the design perspective, the tests have been developed to assess the same competencies, ensuring fairness for students online and paper-based. Research includes a mode effect study, scaling and linking study and item selection process. ACARA will also undertake post-test re-analysis following NAPLAN 2017.

Results of all analyses to date strongly confirm that NAPLAN online and paper results will be comparable at the student, school, state/territory and national level.

The key finding of these analyses is that equating of NAPLAN online tests to the existing NAPLAN scales:

- is technically and practically feasible
- will enable comparable reporting of the results of students who complete NAPLAN online and paper tests.