

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2013-2014**

Agency - Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority

DEEWR Question No. EW0198_14

Senator Mason asked on 5 June 2013, Hansard page 25

Question

ACARA - NAPLAN breaches

Senator MASON: I understand. Are there any other instances of teachers or indeed other school employees from any state or territory being terminated as a result of NAPLAN testing breaches? We have this one that was reported in The Courier-Mail; are there any others? Mr Adams: I would have to take that on notice. I think there may have been one in South Australia, but I would like to, if I may, take that on notice so we can advise. Senator MASON: So you are not sure? Mr Adams: I think there may have been a case quite some time ago in South Australia, but it is very rare, so I want to check and give you the facts.

Answer

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

ACARA reports on test incident information received from Test Administration Authorities (as provided to them by the responsible entity¹ in each state and territory). The responsible entity in each jurisdiction investigates and takes appropriate action in relation to these matters.

The details of disciplinary/industrial actions taken by responsible entities within jurisdictions regarding breaches of the *National Protocols for Test Administration* are generally kept confidential at the employer level. As ACARA is not the employing agency, full details in relation to the nature of disciplinary actions taken are not submitted to ACARA.

With the proviso that ACARA does not receive or compile information on the nature of disciplinary actions taken by employers, ACARA is aware of only one test incident (in 2012) that resulted in the dismissal of a school employee (refer to the response to QoN No. EW0197_14).

¹ 'Responsible entity' is defined in the 2013 *National Protocols for Test Administration* as "The entity that has authority in relation to any particular school or school system to receive and assess initial reports of possible breaches of the *National Protocols* (e.g. school board, system authority, government department, depending on school type).