

**Senate Committee: Education and Employment**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017**

**Outcome: Agency: ACARA**

**Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000863**

Senator Collins, Jacinta provided in writing

***ACARA - Measurement of Complex Skills - sample assessments***

**Question**

What funding is currently invested in the science, ICT and civics and citizenship sample assessments?

What have been the results of these tests?

Will the sample assessments be funded on an ongoing basis?

**Answer**

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

The National Assessment Program (NAP) Sample programs involve the assessment of student performance in each of science literacy, ICT literacy and civics and citizenship on three-year cycle. Under current arrangements the sample size for each assessment cycle is as follows:

- Science literacy – 12,000 Year 6 students
- ICT literacy – 6000 Year 6 students and 6000 Year 10 students
- Civics and citizenship – 6000 Year 6 students and 6000 Year 10 students

The budget relating to civics and citizenship, science literacy and information and communication technologies literacy sample assessment, as set out in the ACARA 2016/17 to 2019/20 quadrennial work budget agreed by Education Council, includes:

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
	<b>\$'000</b>			
Manage the development and oversee the delivery of NAP sample assessments	1,922.7	1,931.8	1,992.6	1,993.1

Given Education Council's decision in July 2016 to expand science literacy assessment to include Year 10 from 2018, these figures are likely to increase by approximately \$550,000 (in total) across the 16/17 to 18/19 financial years.

For NAP Sample Assessment, a public report provides a national overview of student performance against the relevant standards. The report provides an analysis of various findings across states and territories and student sub-groups, for example: the relative achievements of boys/ girls; metropolitan student/rural students and indigenous/non-indigenous students.

The full results of the NAP Sample Assessments can be found in public reports published on the NAP website: <http://www.nap.edu.au/results-and-reports/national-reports>

ACARA is funded on a four-year basis by Education Council, with funding currently agreed through to mid-2020. This includes provision for the NAP Sample program.