

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

**Agency - Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority**

**DEEWR Question No. EW0548\_12**

**Senator Boyce provided in writing.**

**Question**

**ACARA -NAPLAN/Special needs students**

Can you confirm whether students with special needs, such as an intellectual disability or who may not speak English as a first language, whether these students sit the same NAPLAN test and must meet the same assessment criteria as children without disabilities?

**Answer**

ACARA has provided the following response.

Students with significant intellectual disability and/or those with significant co-existing conditions which severely limit the student's capacity to participate in the tests may be exempted from sitting the NAPLAN tests. This is determined after consultation has occurred by the Principal with the relevant parent/carer, and if the student is not able to access the tests with adjustments.

Students with a language background other than English, who arrived from overseas and have been attending school in Australia for less than a year before the test, should be given the opportunity to participate in testing, but may be exempted.

Students who are not exempt from NAPLAN tests may be eligible for disability adjustments, as outlined in the *National Protocols for Test Administration*, to enable them to participate in the NAPLAN tests on an equitable basis to students without disability.