

**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. EW0549_12

Senator Boyce provided in writing.

Question

ACARA - minimum standard in the NAPLAN

Does the Department believe that students with special needs are unfairly expected to meet a minimum standard in the NAPLAN test under current assessment methodology?

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 are typically exempted from sitting the national 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.

All other students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are expected to participate in the NAPLAN tests. Students with disability may be permitted certain accommodations to enable them to access the tests on an equitable basis to students without disability.

These accommodations seek to ensure that the NAPLAN tests are fair for special needs students.