

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012-2013**

Outcome 2 – Schools and Youth

DEEWR Question No. EW0702_13

Senator Mason asked on 18 October 2012, Hansard page 21

Question

Funding for NAP tests online

Senator MASON: I notice in the ACARA PBS, not that I often look at portfolio budget statements—as the minister will be aware, I am not a great PBS man—on page 149 that the phase 1 investigation report for online delivery of NAP tests is listed under the deliverables for program 1.3, national assessment. I assume that relates to this; is that right?

Mr Randall: I am just finding it. Yes.

Senator MASON: I cannot see any mention of the development or delivery of the platform. Why is that?

Mr Adams: If I can refer again to the division of responsibility in relation to the project. Education Services Australia is tasked under a funding agreement to manage all things to do with technical delivery.

ACARA's responsibility is to deal with stakeholders, with the educational dimensions and with the assessment dimensions of the project. So the funding that we have, as Mr Randall has explained, is to undertake research, to undertake consultation and to do development from—

Senator MASON: It is already within the budget?

Mr Adams: We have a highly detailed budget that was the basis for the provision of funding.

Senator MASON: And so that is why it is not mentioned there specifically?

Mr Adams: Yes. My understanding is that ESA would not be represented in that document, but I would seek advice from the Commonwealth on that.

Senator MASON: Is that right, Mr Cook?

Mr Cook: I guess my query here in fact relates to the dot point above: • Delivery and analysis of National Assessment Program – Sample Assessment (triennial cycle) tests. I would assume funding in relation to anything future in relation to any delivery of the NAP tests, including online, would be part of that. But we can take that on notice. We are happy to do that.

Senator MASON: Can you have a look at that, Mr Cook?

Mr Cook: Yes.

Answer

This question is taken to be a reference to funding provided to Education Services Australia (ESA) for the development of a National Online Assessment Delivery System.

As part of the Online Diagnostic Tools (ODT) initiative, DEEWR is providing funding to ESA to deliver a National Online Assessment Delivery System capable of delivering a range of jurisdiction, sector and school diagnostic, formative and summative testing, as well as ACARA's national testing and survey programs (including NAPLAN, subject to agreement by the Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood (SCSEEC)).

Details of DEEWR's funding agreement with ESA to deliver this system are published on DEEWR's website: <http://deewr.gov.au/grants?resource>.

Funding made available to ESA for this purpose is not reflected in the Portfolio Budget Statement, as ESA is a Ministerial company established under the *Corporations Act 2001* and is not a portfolio agency.