

**Senate Committee: Education and Employment**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017**

**Outcome: Agency: ACARA**

**Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000446**

Senator Collins, Jacinta provided in writing

***ACARA - advanced standards for National Assessment***

**Question**

Has ACARA developed advanced standards for National Assessment?

- If yes, please provide a copy. Have these standards been considered by Education Council? If so, when?
- What are the next steps to implement and report against advanced standards?
- When will advanced standards be reported against in the NAPLAN national report?
- When will advanced standards be reported against on MySchool?
- If no – when will the advanced standards be developed? Please provide a timeline of the next steps to develop proficient standards.

**Answer**

*The Australian Curriculum Assessment & Reporting Authority (ACARA) has provided the following response:*

Proficiency standards have been the basis for reporting on student performance in the National Assessment Program (NAP) sample assessments in Science Literacy, Civics and Citizenship and Information and Communication Technology Literacy since the program began in 2003. While there is not an 'advanced' standard, students are reported 'at or above the proficient standard'. The standards may be reviewed as ACARA progresses the enhancement and extension of the NAP Sample program from 2018.

Proficiency standards do not exist for NAPLAN but ACARA is undertaking investigations in this area. ACARA has proposed to establish a set of new NAPLAN performance standards that benchmark proficient and highly proficient levels of student achievement to enhance reporting of student performance in NAPLAN. Under ACARA's investigation achievement of the proficiency standard would mean the student is 'on track' to achieve the curriculum expectations for that year.

The terms 'proficient' and 'highly proficient' are subject to decision by Education Council.

Work undertaken and planned by ACARA includes:

- Statistical linking of NAPLAN scales and the standards and performance of Australian students which has identified the targeted range for the placement of each of the two new standards.
- A standards setting workshop held from 28 February to 2 March 2017. More than 80 experienced educators attended from all states and territories.
- Impact analyses to be conducted by ACARA and consultation undertaken with stakeholders.

All decisions about implementation and reporting will be made by Education Council.