

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

Department of Education Question No. ED0258_15

Senator Wright provided in writing.

Question

Online Diagnostic Tools programme

A total of \$38.4 million will be saved by the cessation of the Online Diagnostic Tools Programme. What effect will this have on the ability to deliver online NAPLAN testing by 2016? How many staff have been dedicated to this programme? Are those staff being made redundant or will they be redirected within the organisation.

Answer

The cessation of the Online Diagnostic Tools (ODT) programme represents a return of \$38.4 million in 'uncommitted' funds only. Under the ODT programme funds were committed to deliver a number of projects, such as NAPLAN online research, a parent website, School Survey, Improve and related sample assessments work, and this work is still underway.

The Australian Government remains committed to national assessment reform and ensuring there is a national approach to online assessment.

In this context, education ministers will decide implementation details for NAPLAN online later this year.

No departmental staff have been made redundant or redirected as a result of this budget announcement. There are six full-time equivalent staff supporting programme management of the projects currently underway as well as policy development to inform decisions of the Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood (SCSEEC).

The Government continues to work with the states and territories, the non-government sector and national education agencies to develop national assessment initiatives, including NAPLAN online.