

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2012-2013**

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

**DEEWR Question No. EW0982\_13**

**Senator Mason asked on 14 February 2013, Hansard page 43**

**Question**

**Cheating on NAPLAN tests**

Senator MASON:...Cheating was another issue that has arisen again in relation to NAPLAN. Looking at ACARA's report of 2012—NAPLAN test incidents—as at 26 October last year there were five reported cheating breaches under investigation; is that right? Mr Adams: Yes. ... Senator MASON: I understand that. Have you caught any cheats? How many cheats have you caught, Mr Adams, and what do you do them? Mr Adams: The states and territories or the governing authorities investigate cases. They advise us of them and they keep us abreast of their investigations. They are the ones who have the responsibility, not us. We set the rules, they enforce them. Depending on the nature of the incident, their processes will result in some form of penalty that is considered to be appropriate by the authority, which may be reprimanding. I think in some cases it has led to dismissal, but I would have to take that on notice. Senator MASON: Could you find out? Mr Adams: Certainly, yes.

**Answer**

*The Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority has provided the following response:*

Disciplinary action taken by the relevant responsible entity (which could be a principal, a school board, or a system authority depending on employment arrangements) is based on a number of factors including the past history of the employee/s concerned. These factors may be unrelated to NAPLAN testing.

In 2012, as reported to ACARA by Test Administration Authorities, there is one reported incident which led to a staff member being dismissed.