

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

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

Agency - Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority

DEEWR Question No. EW0098_13

Senator Boyce provided in writing.

Question

ACARA - independent test supervisors

Why aren't independent test supervisors employed for NAPLAN tests?

Answer

ACARA has provided the following response.

The supervision of NAPLAN tests is the responsibility of jurisdictions. ACARA's Charter requires ACARA to oversee the delivery of NAPLAN tests, but under agreement with states and territories, the local administration of them is a jurisdictional responsibility.

The sheer number of test sessions across the country precludes the use of independent supervisors as the associated cost would likely to be prohibitive and the availability of suitable people would also be limited. Moreover, while independent supervisors may be used for matriculation examinations, the stakes for students in NAPLAN are low. It is a national test used to provide a national snapshot of student performance at a particular point in time.

Finally, ACARA acknowledges and supports the professionalism of teachers in supervising NAPLAN tests and notes that employing independent supervisors would, by implication, increase the stakes of NAPLAN testing.