

**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. EW0101\_13**

**Senator Boyce provided in writing.**

**Question**

**NAPLAN - materials in Classrooms during tests**

I refer to a report in the Canberra Times (19 May 2010) that a parent had found large laminated grammar and spelling charts on the wall of her child's classroom during the NAPLAN tests that year. A teacher confirmed that this was a widespread practice so students could refer to the charts [Note: a similar incident was reported in the Courier Mail (19 May 2010)]. Was this breach of the NAPLAN test fully investigated? Can you provide a record of this incident having been reported and investigated? Did ACARA also investigate claims that the practice was widespread?

**Answer**

*ACARA has provided the following response.*

The incident referred to in the question allegedly took place in a school in NSW and was investigated thoroughly by the Test Administration Authority. The matter was not substantiated and was subsequently closed.

While ACARA has no authority to investigate claims of alleged breaches of test protocols, it should be noted that only a small number of incidents across all NAPLAN testing reported each year are substantiated (i.e. 34 in 2010 & 54 in 2011 of any description from over 4,000,000 tests undertaken). There is no evidence to suggest that the practice described in the question is widespread.