

**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. EW0102_13

Senator Boyce provided in writing.

Question

ACARA - investigative process

Once a claim of breaches of test protocol has been received, what is ACARA's investigative process?

Answer

ACARA has provided the following response.

In line with the *National Protocols for Test Administration* and the *Guidelines for Managing Test Incidents*, all allegations of breaches of the Protocols are managed by each jurisdiction through the Test Administration Authority. Any allegations of breaches of test administration protocols received directly by ACARA are forwarded to the Test Administration Authority in the relevant jurisdiction for processing. ACARA has no investigative powers with respect to such matters.

It is incumbent upon the responsible entity in each case to undertake a preliminary face-validity test with each allegation to determine whether the incident is a breach of protocols. If, on face value, the incident appears to involve a breach, the responsible entity is required to undertake a full investigation to either substantiate the matter (then take appropriate action), or determine that the matter cannot be substantiated (and close the matter).

ACARA monitors the management of test incidents via regular updates.