

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

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

Outcome 2 – Schools and Youth

DEEWR Question No. EW0430_13

Senator Mason asked on 31 May 2012, Hansard page 70

Question

NAPLAN Tests

Senator MASON: It is a choice of the parents and so forth, okay. How about students attending Steiner schools? Ms Davy: Again, I think we had these questions for ACARA last time. I would have to take that on notice. I cannot recall the detail of their response to that question. Ms Paul: I think they are included. Ms Davy: Yes, they are included and I think the question might have been, 'Could you disaggregate the results to Steiner schools?' and the answer was no. Ms Paul: It is probably better to take it on notice. Senator MASON: Thank you.

Answer

A decision to withdraw a student from the NAPLAN tests is the responsibility of the student's parent/carer, and not the school. Under the *National Protocols for Test Administration* students who are in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are expected to participate in the testing. While participation by all students is encouraged, students may be withdrawn from the testing program by their parent/carer. This is a matter for consideration by individual parents/carers. Withdrawals are intended to address issues such as religious beliefs and philosophical objections to testing. A formal application in the manner specified for each state or territory must be received by the principal prior to the testing.

The percentage of students withdrawn, absent and exempt from NAPLAN testing for each school is published on the *My School* website. Data are not reported for groups of schools by sub-type, such as Steiner schools.