

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-2011**

Agency - ACARA

DEEWR Question No.EW0500_11

Senator Fifield provided in writing.

Question

NAPLAN TESTING AND STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY

Is the Government aware of cases where students with disability at mainstream schools have been sent home on NAPLAN test days?

Answer

ACARA has provided the following response.

There was a very small number of reports about schools encouraging students, expected to perform poorly, to withdraw from the tests. All reports were investigated by the relevant authorities. ACARA is not aware of any specific incidents of the nature described. ACARA is working with states and territories to maximise student participation in the tests and to reduce the incidence of withdrawals in 2011 via:

- enhanced national protocols for test administration,
- a broad based communication strategy targeting parents and schools (principals and teachers).