

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

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

Agency - ACARA

DEEWR Question No.EW0502_11

Senator Fifield provided in writing.

Question

NAPLAN TESTING AND STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY

What measures has the Government taken to ensure that children with disability are not discriminated against when it comes to NAPLAN tests?

Answer

ACARA has provided the following response.

ACARA works with states and territories to maximise access to the tests for all students. In the development and administration of the tests, the requirements of students with special needs are considered via formal reviews by experts in the requirements of students with special needs.

In 2010, more than 11,500 special provisions were made for students with special needs to access the tests. ACARA continues to work with states and territories to increase accessibility to the tests and improve special provisions, including technology assisted provisions. The major categories of special provisions in tests include: oral sign support for the hearing impaired, Braille, large print, Black and white test versions, separate supervision, extra time, use of a scribe, assistive technology.

Students can be exempted from one or more NAPLAN tests if they have significant intellectual or functional disability or if they are from a non-English-speaking background and arrived in Australia less than one year before the tests.