

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

**Agency - Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority**

**DEEWR Question No. EW0550\_12**

**Senator Boyce provided in writing.**

**Question**

**ACARA - NAPLAN/Special needs students**

Does the Department currently have any methods of assessing special needs student improvement?

**Answer**

ACARA has provided the following response.

The annual NAPLAN tests, which are conducted for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9, enable performance of participating students, including those with special needs, to be monitored and improvement to be assessed.

Students who have significant intellectual disability and/or significant co-existing conditions are typically exempt from NAPLAN tests. However, it is to be noted that NAPLAN is but one piece of performance information. There are extensive, ongoing assessments made by teachers of each student's performance and improvement.

As NAPLAN results are reported against single scales (one scale for each of five domains) that cover performance from Year 3 to Year 9, parents and teachers of all students sitting the NAPLAN tests are able to compare individual student results from different years to see improvement.