

**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. EW0551_12

Senator Boyce provided in writing.

Question

ACARA - NAPLAN/Special needs students

Parents can request their child be exempted from sitting the test. Can the Department identify the number of students in the respective grades that were exempted from sitting NAPLAN 2011? What were some of the most common reasons?

Answer

ACARA has provided the following response.

Under the *National Protocols for Test Administration* students may only be exempted from one or more NAPLAN tests on two grounds: if they have significant intellectual or complex disabilities, or, if they have a language background other than English and arrived from overseas less than a year before the test.

Data analysis for NAPLAN 2011 is still in progress, therefore validated information about 2011 exemptions is not yet available.

The *2010 National NAPLAN Report* identifies exemptions within each jurisdiction and for each domain tested within each year level as a percentage of all students. The following table provides the 2010 number of exemptions nationally by test (and percentage of total NAPLAN cohort).

	Reading	Writing	Language Conventions	Numeracy
Year 3	5375 (2.1%)	5412 (2.2%)	5364 (2.1%)	5230 (2.1%)
Year 5	5106 (1.8%)	5137 (1.9%)	5083 (1.8%)	4968 (1.8%)
Year 7	4288 (1.6%)	4296 (1.6%)	4295 (1.6%)	4238 (1.5%)
Year 9	4348 (1.6%)	4333 (1.5%)	4323 (1.5%)	4291 (1.5%)