

**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. EW0552_12

Senator Boyce provided in writing.

Question

ACARA - NAPLAN/Special needs students

"According to the Department assistive technology can be made available during testing for students who employ such technology in standard learning environments. Would the Department provide examples of which samples of students with disabilities will have access to such technology, and for what reasons?"

Answer

ACARA has provided the following response.

The *National Protocols for Test Administration* ('the Protocols') outline the conditions under which special provisions can be granted to students with disability in order to allow them to participate in NAPLAN tests on an equitable basis (section 6 of the Protocols).

In order to be eligible to use the assistive technology in NAPLAN tests, students must regularly use assistive technology (eg a computer) as part of their usual disability accommodations when participating in classroom learning and assessments.

For NAPLAN 2011, an electronic PDF version of the tests was provided as a pilot for students with a severe physical disability to enable their participation in the NAPLAN tests. This alternative format test enabled students to answer questions on screen by clicking a radio button or typing their answer in a text box. Analysis of feedback obtained from the pilot was finalised, and an electronic version of the tests will be provided in 2012 for those students otherwise unable to access the test by any other accommodations as outlined in the *National Protocols for Test Administration*.

Examples of accommodations that are appropriate for the NAPLAN tests are provided in the form of case studies on the NAP website (www.nap.edu.au). This helps schools to determine which accommodations are appropriate. Case studies are updated as required. An example case study is provided below. Feedback on the case studies was sought from the Australian Human Rights Commission and disability experts in state and territory education departments.