

**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. EW0824\_12**

**Senator McKenzie asked on 20 October 2011 , Hansard page 60**

**Question**

**ACARA - online version of NAPLAN**

Senator McKENZIE: Is it a more efficient use of resources in schools on the ground to go to an online version of NAPLAN rather than the bits of paper and the kids at the desk? Dr Arthur: I think we will need to explore that. I think the assumption we will probably have is 'yes', but we will need to do this carefully and, indeed, find some of those things out. Senator McKENZIE: Has a cost-benefit analysis been done? Ms Paul: ACARA administers the National Assessment Program, and they are starting to look at that. I do not think they have finished looking at that. Probably what I would suggest is that, because they will have done more work by the next estimates, either we can take that on notice now and ask them now—but there will be more— Senator McKENZIE: Are they still here? Ms Paul: No, they have been and gone. We can certainly take it on notice, or there will be more to say in February anyway, at which point you might want to ask ACARA directly.

**Answer**

ACARA has provided the following response.

A discussion paper on an online test delivery approach for NAPLAN was put before the ACARA Board mid-November 2011 and will be submitted to the Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood via AEEYSOC early in 2012. The paper will consider draft specifications to develop and oversee the development of online assessment software.