

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012-2013**

Agency - Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority

DEEWR Question No. EW0696_13

Senator Mason asked on 18 October 2012 , Hansard page 11

Question

ACARA - Absenteeism - Boosting results by not attending school.

Finally, does the department have any knowledge of any complaints from rural and regional areas of schools asking particular children not to attend school in order to boost results? Mr Randall: It does not come to mind. We have discussed it at this committee previously and we have talked previously about where matters are raised. We have undertaken, if particular things were brought to our attention, that we would follow them through. I am happy, again, to check that. I do not have it to mind. I am pretty confident that I would know, but we will check if we have particular cases of any of those sorts of concerns. Senator NASH: If you could also take that on notice, that would be appreciated.

Answer

ACARA has provided the following response.

Schools exerting undue influence on parents/carers to withdraw their students from NAPLAN testing is a breach of the *National Protocols for Test Administration*. In line with the National Protocols and the *Guidelines for Managing Test Incidents*, all allegations of breaches of the protocols by schools are investigated by the relevant authority and notified to the Test Administration Authority (TAA) in each jurisdiction. The TAA then provides details to ACARA for the purpose of national monitoring and program improvement. School names are not provided to ACARA as part of this process, and therefore ACARA does not have any specific knowledge of schools in rural and regional areas asking particular children not to attend school in order to boost results.