

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

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

**Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth**

**DEEWR Question No.** EW0700\_13

**Senator Mason asked on 18 October 2012, Hansard page 19**

**Question**

**Development of NAPLAN online**

Mr Adams: It is a development of test, correct. The delivery of it is being undertaken by Education Services Australia, a ministerial company. ESA has been given a funding grant from the Commonwealth government to do two things to secure a platform to deliver the sample assessments next year which will be to about 13,000 or 14,000 students and at the same time investigate the potential to develop a capability to deliver NAPLAN.

Senator MASON: You have a company that has been challenged to do that. So a tender has been let.

Mr Adams: No, this is by a funding grant because it is a ministerial company. It is done under a funding grant from the Commonwealth.

Senator MASON: So where can I find that?

Mr Cook: We will take that on notice and come back to you.

**Answer**

As part of the Online Diagnostic Tools (ODT) initiative, DEEWR is providing funding to the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) and Education Services Australia (ESA) to undertake different aspects of an overarching program of work that will deliver:

- A system for jurisdictions to deliver the National School Opinion Survey online in August 2013.
- An interim system for jurisdictions to deliver The National Assessment Program – Civics and Citizenship sample assessment (NAP–CC) online in October 2013.
- A National Online Assessment Delivery System capable of delivering a range of jurisdiction, sector and school diagnostic, formative and summative testing, as well as ACARA's national testing and survey programs, including NAPLAN, subject to Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood (SCSEEC) agreement.

ACARA is undertaking the assessment and reporting aspects of the program, including designing tests, developing test items and a detailed research agenda to examine and report on impacts of online test delivery. ESA is responsible for developing the IT systems to deliver the tests and surveys online.

ESA is a Ministerial company incorporated under the *Corporations Act 2001*. The Company Members are the Commonwealth and State and Territory Education Ministers. As owners of ESA, the SCSEEC expects that ESA will deliver products and services that directly meet the needs and requirements of all jurisdictions, systems and schools in the education sector.

A tender process was not undertaken for this work as ESA has considerable relevant expertise in:

- delivering national ICT education services including the Australian Curriculum website, the *Scotle* learning resource system, and the *Improve* formative assessment tool;
- working collaboratively with ACARA, DEEWR, jurisdictions and schools to establish system requirements and deliver customised solutions; and
- sub-contracting for the provision of products or services that can be delivered more efficiently through the market.

Details of DEEWR's funding agreement with ESA under this program are published on DEEWR's website: <http://deewr.gov.au/grants?resource>.