

REPORT OF 2012 NAPLAN TEST INCIDENTS

Introduction

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests are held during May each year. In 2012 the tests were held on 15, 16 and 17 May and, in total, approximately five million tests were sat by over one million students nationally.

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) is responsible for the central management of NAPLAN. The Test Administration Authority (TAA) in each state and territory is responsible for the administration of the tests in schools.

ACARA works with state, territory and non-government representatives to ensure the NAPLAN tests are delivered in accordance with nationally agreed protocols to ensure that the results validly, reliably and fairly capture student achievement. The *National Protocols for Test Administration* (the 'Protocols') provide detailed information on all aspects of the administration of the tests and specify security requirements, uniform processes and procedures to ensure students complete the tests under similar conditions. Where individual students require special arrangements to complete the tests these are provided at the school in consultation with student, their parents/carers, and the relevant TAA.

Reports of improper conduct are very few in the context of all the students and schools participating in NAPLAN across the country. Where an allegation is made that the Protocols have been breached, the relevant responsible entity undertakes an investigation, and this information is then provided to ACARA.

ACARA, in cooperation with states and territories, continues to review the Protocols to ensure they effectively support educators to administer the NAPLAN tests with consistency. Test incident information reported to ACARA is used to inform this review and to improve processes and education about the program.

NAPLAN test incidents are defined as follows:

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| Cheating (C) | A breach of the <i>National Protocols for Test Administration</i> amounting to cheating occurs when there is intent to gain an unfair advantage or improperly influence test results; this category does not include instances of student cheating. |
| Security (S) | A breach of the <i>National Protocols for Test Administration</i> affecting test security occurs when early knowledge of test content is obtained which has the potential to compromise the integrity of the test results. Breaches of test security committed with intent to gain an unfair advantage are considered as cheating. |
| General (G) | General breaches of the <i>National Protocols for Test Administration</i> include all other mal-administrative practices that are not in accordance with the agreed protocols, but which do not amount to cheating or affect test security. |

This report does not identify individuals or schools but provides information on breaches of the Protocols in two tables as follows:

- **Table 1** summarises information about the number of allegations of cheating, security breaches or general breaches of test protocols, and;
- **Table 2** provides further information about the substantiated cases, including a description of the incident, and information on what action has been taken as a consequence.

Statement on 2012 NAPLAN test incidents

The *Report of 2012 NAPLAN Test Incidents* reinforces the fact that teachers and schools work hard to ensure the integrity of the tests, both through the very small number of incidents across the entire country, as well as through the increasing numbers of schools reporting their own inadvertent breaches.

In summary:

- while there are more reported test incidents in 2012 compared with previous years, most of the those reported to ACARA in 2012 were of a procedural nature; these were generally of limited impact for which no evidence was found of intent to gain advantage, and the integrity of results was not compromised;
- only 79 test incidents were substantiated across approximately five million tests undertaken nationally;
- of these 79 test incidents, only six cheating breaches were substantiated (this is three fewer than in 2011);
- 67% of all breaches reported (and 74% of all substantiated breaches) were self-reported by schools, indicating a greater understanding of the Protocols, increased attention paid to test integrity, and significant efforts by schools to ensure transparency in their processes and a desire to be doing the 'right thing' - this is testimony to the professionalism of teachers/educators and school administrators.

TABLE 1: Summary of Reported Incidents (as at 26 October 2012)

Incident category	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Under investigation	Total
Cheating breach (C)	6	3	5	14
Security breach (S)	25	3	0	28
General breach (G)	48	7	1	56
Total	79	13	6	98
Total schools affected	76	13	6	95

TABLE 2: Incidents Investigated and Substantiated (as at 26 October 2012)

#	State/ Territory	Incident category	2012 National Protocol clause/s breached	Description of incident	Action taken and outcome
1	NSW	S	4.3.6	Test materials opened and sorted earlier than allowed. Relevant to: one school.	No evidence that test results were compromised. School counselled regarding importance of breach and advised of correct procedures for future testing.
2	NSW	S	4.3.8	Test materials left unsecured in public space prior to tests and were lost and not recovered before the test. Relevant to: scope difficult to determine.	No evidence that test results were compromised. School counselled regarding importance of breach and advised of correct procedures for future testing.
3	NSW	G	4.3.9	Tests provided to students in incorrect sequence. Relevant to: one class in one school.	No evidence that test results were compromised. Issue identified and rectified prior to commencement of tests.
4	NSW	G	6.10.2	Disability adjustment granted outside student entitlement. Relevant to: three students in two different schools. <i>NB: This is an aggregation of two separate incidents in two separate schools.</i>	Students' results withheld. School counselled regarding importance of breach and advised of correct procedures for future testing.
5	NSW	G	8.9.3	Completed test booklets copied for retention at the school. Relevant to: one school.	No evidence that test results were compromised. School counselled regarding importance of breach and advised of correct procedures for future testing.
6	NSW	S	8.9.1 8.9.3	Secure test content made public by school during the test security period. Relevant to: scope difficult to determine. <i>NB: This is an aggregation of two separate incidents in two separate schools.</i>	No evidence that test results were compromised. Schools counselled regarding importance of breach and advised of correct procedures for future testing.

#	State/ Territory	Incident category	2012 National Protocol clause/s breached	Description of incident	Action taken and outcome
7	NSW	S	4.3.8	Test materials not collected and stored securely at the end of the test. Relevant to: one class.	No evidence that test results were compromised. School counselled regarding importance of breach and advised of correct procedures for future testing.
8	NSW	G	8.4.2	Tests sat outside of sanctioned timetable. Relevant to: one school.	No evidence that test results were compromised. School counselled regarding importance of breach and advised of correct procedures for future testing.
9	NSW	G	6.5.5	Permission not sought for the use of a Scribe. Relevant to: three students in two different schools. <i>NB: This is an aggregation of two separate incidents in two separate schools.</i>	Students' test results withheld. Schools advised of correct procedures for future testing.
10	NSW	G	6.10.2	Disability adjustment granted outside student entitlement. Relevant to: two students.	Students' results withheld. School counselled regarding importance of breach and advised of correct procedures for future testing.
11	NSW	C	2.3 8.5.2 8.6.1	Inappropriate assistance provided to students prior to and during test. Relevant to: one class.	No evidence that test results were compromised. School counselled regarding importance of breach and advised of correct procedures for future testing.
12	Vic.	S	2.4.1	Test materials not kept secure in a school during the test security period and were misplaced and not recovered before the test. Relevant to: one school.	No evidence that test results were compromised. Replacement test materials provided to enable students to sit the tests. School undertook to improve security procedures for future testing.

#	State/ Territory	Incident category	2012 National Protocol clause/s breached	Description of incident	Action taken and outcome
13	Vic.	S	2.2.3	<p>Test materials made available briefly to students before the test.</p> <p>Relevant to: four classes in three different schools.</p> <p><i>NB: This is an aggregation of three separate incidents in three separate schools.</i></p>	<p>No evidence that test results were compromised.</p> <p>Schools advised of correct procedures for future testing.</p>
14	Vic.	G	2.2.3	<p>Tests provided to students in incorrect sequence.</p> <p>Relevant to: two year levels in one school, and two separate classes in two different schools.</p> <p><i>NB: This is an aggregation of three separate incidents in three separate schools.</i></p>	<p>No evidence that test results were compromised.</p> <p>Schools undertook to improve administration procedures for future testing.</p>
15	Vic.	G	6.10.2	<p>Disability adjustment granted outside student entitlement.</p> <p>Relevant to: two students in two separate schools.</p> <p><i>NB: This is an aggregation of two separate incidents in two separate schools.</i></p>	<p>Students' results withheld.</p> <p>Schools advised of correct procedures for future testing.</p>
16	Vic.	G	2.2.3	<p>Incorrect test administration instructions given to students.</p> <p>Relevant to: 14 students.</p>	<p>No evidence that test results were compromised.</p> <p>School undertook to improve administration procedures for future testing.</p>
17	Vic.	G	2.2.3	<p>Excess time (several minutes) provided to complete the test.</p> <p>Relevant to: one class.</p>	<p>No evidence that test results were compromised.</p> <p>School undertook to improve administration procedures for future testing.</p>
18	Vic.	S	2.4	<p>Test materials not kept secure in school during the test security period and were lost and not recovered before the test.</p> <p>Relevant to: one school.</p>	<p>No evidence that test results were compromised.</p> <p>Replacement test materials provided to enable students to sit the tests.</p> <p>School counselled regarding importance of breach and advised of correct procedures for future testing.</p>

#	State/ Territory	Incident category	2012 National Protocol clause/s breached	Description of incident	Action taken and outcome
19	Vic.	G	8.4.7	Catch-up test administered outside the test week. Relevant to: one student.	Student's results withheld. School advised of correct procedures for future testing.
20	Vic.	G	2.4.6	Completed test booklets marked at school. Relevant to: two classes.	No evidence that test results were compromised. School counselled regarding importance of breach and advised of correct procedures for future testing.
21	Qld	S	4.3.6	Test materials sent from one school to another school before the test in breach of security requirements. Relevant to: one student.	No evidence that test results were compromised. Disciplinary action taken.
22	Qld	C	2.2.5 2.2.7	Inappropriate assistance provided to students during test. Relevant to: one class.	No evidence that test results were compromised. Disciplinary action taken.
23	Qld	S	2.4.1 4.3.6	Test materials not kept secure in a school during the test security period. Relevant to: two schools. <i>NB: This is an aggregation of two separate incidents in two separate schools.</i>	No evidence that test results were compromised. Disciplinary action taken.
24	Qld	G	8.2.1 8.7.1	Inappropriate assistance provided to students before the test. Relevant to: one class.	No evidence that test results were compromised. Disciplinary action taken.
25	Qld	G	4.3.6 8.5.3	Tests provided to students in incorrect sequence. Relevant to: three classes in two different schools. <i>NB: This is an aggregation of two separate incidents in two separate schools.</i>	No evidence that test results were compromised. Schools counselled regarding importance of breach and advised of correct procedures for future testing.
26	Qld	G	6.5.5	Permission not sought for the use of a Scribe. Relevant to: one student.	No evidence that test results were compromised. School counselled regarding importance of breach and advised of correct procedures for future testing.

#	State/ Territory	Incident category	2012 National Protocol clause/s breached	Description of incident	Action taken and outcome
27	Qld	G	6.5.5	Permission not sought for the use of a Scribe. Relevant to: two students.	No evidence that test results were compromised. Disciplinary action taken.
28	Qld	G	8.8.1	Excess time (10 minutes) provided to complete the test. Relevant to: one class.	No evidence that test results were compromised. School undertook to improve administration procedures for future testing.
29	Qld	G	4.3.6 8.5.3	Tests provided to students in incorrect sequence. Relevant to: one class.	No evidence that test results were compromised. School undertook to improve administration procedures for future testing.
30	Qld	G	2.2.4 8.6.6	Student left unsupervised during the test for a period of time. Relevant to: four students in two different schools. <i>NB: This is an aggregation of two separate incidents in two separate schools.</i>	No evidence that test results were compromised. Disciplinary action taken.
31	Qld	S	2.4.1 4.3.6	Media provided with access to secure test content before end of test security period. Relevant to: scope difficult to determine.	No evidence that test results were compromised. School undertook to improve administration procedures for future testing.
32	Qld	C	8.6.4	Student/s instructed to change answer/s after completion of test. Relevant to: at least two students.	No evidence that test results were compromised. Disciplinary action taken.
33	Qld	S	4.3.1 4.3.11	Test materials not kept secure in a school during the test security period. Relevant to: one class.	No evidence that test results were compromised. School counselled regarding importance of breach and advised of correct procedures for future testing.
34	Qld	G	8.4.4 8.4.6	School interrupted the test for an unsanctioned break of 15 minutes. Relevant to: two students.	No evidence that test results were compromised. Disciplinary action taken.

#	State/ Territory	Incident category	2012 National Protocol clause/s breached	Description of incident	Action taken and outcome
35	Qld	G	2.4.6	Completed test booklets copied for retention at the school. Relevant to: one year level.	No evidence that test results were compromised. Disciplinary action taken.
36	Qld	G	4.3.1	Test materials not returned to TAA in line with correct procedures. Relevant to: one year level.	No evidence that test results were compromised. Disciplinary action taken.
37	Qld	G	6.10.2	Disability adjustment granted outside student entitlement. Relevant to: ten students.	No evidence that test results were compromised. Disciplinary action taken.
38	WA	G	5.4.1 5.4.2	Influence exerted on parents to withdraw their child from testing. Relevant to: 30 students.	Students provided with opportunity to sit the tests. Disciplinary action taken.
39	WA	S	8.4.2 8.4.3	Tests administered outside of sanctioned timetable. Relevant to: one year level.	No evidence that test results were compromised Disciplinary action taken.
40	WA	G	8.9.1 8.9.3 8.9.4	Test materials not collected and stored securely at the end of the test. Completed test books marked at the school. Relevant to: less than one year level.	No evidence that test results were compromised. School undertook to improve administration procedures for future testing.
41	WA	G	2.2.3	Tests provided to students in incorrect sequence. Relevant to: one class in one school and one year level in a different school. <i>NB: This is an aggregation of two separate incidents in two separate schools.</i>	No evidence that test results were compromised. Schools undertook to improve administration procedures for future testing.
42	WA	G	8.9.4	Completed test books marked at the school. Relevant to: one year level.	No evidence that test results were compromised. Disciplinary action taken.
43	WA	S	4.3.4	Test materials sent by one school to another school in breach of security requirements. Relevant to: one student.	No evidence that test results were compromised.

#	State/ Territory	Incident category	2012 National Protocol clause/s breached	Description of incident	Action taken and outcome
44	WA	G	8.9.4	Completed test books copied for retention at the school. Completed test books marked at the school. Relevant to: one year level.	No evidence that test results were compromised. Disciplinary action taken.
45	SA	S	2.4.1	Test materials not received by school in line with correct procedures. Test materials were lost and unrecovered before the test. Relevant to: one year level.	No evidence that test results were compromised. Replacement test materials provided to enable students to sit the test. School counselled regarding importance of breach and advised of correct procedures for future testing.
46	SA	G	2.1.2	Influence exerted on parent to withdraw their child from testing. Relevant to: one student.	Student provided with opportunity to sit the test at the scheduled time.
47	SA	C	2.1.2	Influence exerted on parents to withdraw their child from testing. Relevant to: 13 students.	Students were provided with opportunity to sit the tests. School counselled regarding importance of breach and advised of correct procedures for future testing. Disciplinary action taken.
48	SA	S	2.4.1 2.4.2	Media provided with access to secure test content before end of test security period. Relevant to: scope difficult to determine. <i>NB: This is an aggregation of two separate incidents in two separate schools.</i>	No evidence that test results were compromised. Schools counselled regarding importance of breach and advised of correct procedures for future testing.
49	SA	C	2.2.5	Inappropriate assistance provided to student during test. Relevant to: one student.	Student's results withheld. School counselled regarding importance of breach and advised of correct procedures for future testing.

#	State/ Territory	Incident category	2012 National Protocol clause/s breached	Description of incident	Action taken and outcome
50	SA	C	2.2.3 2.3.2	Incorrect test administration instructions given to student. Relevant to: one student.	No evidence that test results were compromised. School counselled regarding importance of breach and advised of correct procedures for future testing.
51	SA	G	2.2.3 2.3.2 8.5.2	Inappropriate assistance provided to students during the test. Relevant to: one class.	No evidence that test results were compromised. Disciplinary action taken. School counselled regarding importance of breach and advised of correct procedures for future testing.
52	SA	G	2.2.3	Insufficient time provided to complete the test. Relevant to: one class in one school and four students in a different school. <i>NB: This is an aggregation of two separate incidents in two separate schools.</i>	No evidence that test results were compromised. Students provided with the remaining time to complete the test. Schools counselled regarding importance of breach and advised of correct procedures for future testing.
53	SA	G	2.2.1 2.2.3	Inappropriate assistance available to student during the test. Relevant to: three students in two different schools. <i>NB: This is an aggregation of two separate incidents in two separate schools</i>	No evidence that test results were compromised. Schools advised of correct procedures for future testing.
54	SA	G	2.2.1 2.2.4	Incorrect test administration instructions given to student. Relevant to: one student.	Results withheld for national reporting. School advised of correct procedures for future testing.
55	SA	G	2.1.2	Influence exerted on parent to withdraw their child from testing. Relevant to: one student.	Student participated in tests. School advised of correct procedures for future testing.
56	SA	G	8.9.3	Completed test booklet marked at the school. Relevant to: one student.	No evidence that test results were compromised. Disciplinary action taken.

#	State/ Territory	Incident category	2012 National Protocol clause/s breached	Description of incident	Action taken and outcome
57	SA	G	8.9.4	Students required to transcribe their responses for marking and the provision of results. Relevant to: one year level.	No evidence that test results were compromised. Disciplinary action taken.
58	Tas.	G	5.4.1 5.4.2	Process for student withdrawals not followed. Relevant to: fewer than ten students in total from two different schools. <i>NB: This is an aggregation of two separate incidents in two separate schools.</i>	Students were provided with opportunity to sit the tests. Schools advised of correct procedures for future testing.
59	ACT	S	4.2.3	Test materials not delivered to school in line with correct procedures. Relevant to: one school.	Replacement materials provided. Students sat the test.
60	ACT	S	4.3.8 4.3.10	Media provided with access to secure test content before end of test security period. Relevant to: scope difficult to determine.	School advised of correct procedures for future testing.
61	NT	S	4.3.4	Test materials sent by one school to another school in breach of security requirements. Relevant to: one student.	No evidence that test results were compromised. Disciplinary action taken.
62	NT	S	4.3.6	Tests provided to students in incorrect sequence. Relevant to: one class.	No evidence that test results were compromised. School advised of correct procedures for future testing.
63	NT	S	8.4.2 8.5.2	Tests sat outside of sanctioned timetable. Relevant to: 12 students.	No evidence that test results were compromised. School advised of correct procedures for future testing.