




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

NAPLAN

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.22 am): More than 263,000 Queensland students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will sit the 2018 NAPLAN tests this week, starting today. This includes 15,000 students from more than 80 state and non-state schools who will be participating in NAPLAN online. I wish all students who are sitting this year's NAPLAN test the best of luck and only ask that they try their best.

I also want to thank parents and our hardworking teachers for their crucial role in preparing students for the test. Queensland has participated in the National Assessment Program—Literacy and Numeracy testing for the past decade. During this time we have seen significant changes in Queensland's education systems and society more broadly. The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring we strike the right balance on national assessment requirements placed on students, parents and schools. Not a week goes by without principals, parents, teachers, academics, media and members of the public raising issues about NAPLAN. Recently, distinguished academic Dr Les Perelman labelled the NAPLAN writing tests as 'the most absurd and least valid' he had ever seen. Gonski 2.0, handed down two weeks ago, also raised concerns about the limitations of NAPLAN to inform teaching practices.

After a decade of NAPLAN, most stakeholders agree that the timing is right for a comprehensive review. It is time to take a fresh look at what is working and what could be improved. That is why I announced in February that my department would re-evaluate NAPLAN in the Queensland context. The Queensland evaluation will look into how NAPLAN is being used and reported and the value of the test in improving education outcomes and feed this information into the national review. I have also called on the Turnbull government to undertake a national review of NAPLAN.

At the Education Council meeting in April I advocated strongly for, and secured the scope of, the terms of reference for a national review to be drawn up and presented at the next meeting in June. The Palaszczuk government listens to the concerns of school communities. I am proud to be putting issues that affect Queensland students on the national agenda and I will continue to advocate for a comprehensive national NAPLAN review. I wish all students the best over the next few days.