




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

National Literacy and Numeracy Week; NAPLAN

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.23 am): This week is National Literacy and Numeracy Week and it is also QCS testing week for our year 12 students. I want to wish the 28,000 senior students who are sitting the four tests over the next two days all the very best, to have confidence in their abilities and to try their hardest.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to delivering a quality education in all Queensland schools. Our preliminary results in the 2018 NAPLAN tests released last week have reaffirmed our ongoing investment in educational reforms, such as the introduction of prep over the past decade, are paying dividends. Our long-term trend of lifting literacy and numeracy outcomes has continued for Queensland state schools this year with improvement across year levels and many test strands, with reading and spelling being stand-out areas. Our year 9 students also achieved some of their highest results ever in spelling, grammar and punctuation, reading and numeracy.

This year's results confirm Queensland as one of the most improved states since testing began in 2008. Importantly, we are gaining growth and improvement in schools which have traditionally had challenges. Since the test started a decade ago, Queensland students have improved in 16 of 20 NAPLAN testing areas in both mean scale score and national minimum standard. These are some great results for Queensland. I thank our students for their hard work and their teachers, school staff, parents and carers for supporting and encouraging them to do their best.

Our government recognises the need for a nationally consistent test. However, with writing results continuing to decline around the country and participation rates falling in Queensland, we are pressing ahead with our state based NAPLAN evaluation. Already we have consulted with parents to get their views on the tests, with almost 8,000 parents and carers responding to our recent online survey and focus groups. I am pleased to announce the Australian Catholic University has been appointed to lead the second stage of the evaluation and this week consultation has been extended to teachers, principals, education stakeholders and students to provide their views and issues.

The results of our state based evaluation are scheduled to be presented to government at the end of October. I look forward to seeing the results and I know that other states and territories will be keen to see the outcome of Queensland's lead in this evaluation. In the meantime, I remain committed to advocating for a broader national review, particularly in the area of writing, and to address the many serious issues identified this year with NAPLAN Online. Our new Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, has promised to do things differently, so I suggest he starts by asking his new education minister to commission a national NAPLAN review. After 10 years of NAPLAN, it is time.