



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**


**MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL**

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Record of Proceedings, 28 March 2019

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**NAPLAN**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.53 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to giving Queensland kids a great start through a world-class education. An important aspect of delivering on this commitment is ensuring that the various educational resources and assessments being used remain current and responsive. With the Morrison government refusing to act, last year we acted on a Queensland evaluation of NAPLAN to identify the concerns being expressed by students, parents and educators from all schools—government and non-government—throughout Queensland. This is another example of Queensland providing leadership at the national level. We had a great response to the survey in phase 1, with feedback from more than 7,500 parents and carers and 3,000 students. Phase 2, undertaken by the Australian Catholic University, saw feedback from 5,800 teachers and principals—and 200 education stakeholders—a response rate of over 80 per cent of all schools, an incredible response. However, this response is not surprising as since I became education minister not a week has gone by without someone raising a concern with me about NAPLAN.

The Palaszczuk government's evaluation identified that NAPLAN had played a role in supporting improvements in Queensland's educational outcomes. However, many parents reported that testing caused their child to experience anxiety and stress; that there were a range of unintended consequences stemming from the now high-stakes nature of the testing; and that there were differing expectations about the purpose of NAPLAN. Educators expressed concern at the growing amount of time and pressure in preparing for testing; examples of teaching being tailored to NAPLAN, resulting in a narrowing of the curriculum; and that NAPLAN data was being misinterpreted as the sole indicator of a school's performance.

I want to make sure we strike the right balance, with the information gained from NAPLAN used for the right purpose while addressing any unintended consequences. To achieve this, we are incorporating these findings into a communications strategy for parents and schools about NAPLAN. We are developing an online resource for parents and will provide clear guidance to schools about NAPLAN's place in our education system. The reports and the government's response are available on my department's website. While the Morrison government will not support a national review of NAPLAN, federal Labor has committed to a comprehensive review if successful at the coming election, and I welcome this commitment.

The Palaszczuk government has been a leading voice in this conversation because we firmly believe that, after 10 years, it is time for a comprehensive national review of NAPLAN. Queensland's work in this area means we are ready and able to contribute our findings and response to a national review. I again call on the Morrison government to listen to all states and territories, listen to parents and students, listen to teachers and educators and, like Labor, commit to a national review.