




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

Record of Proceedings, 14 May 2019

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

NAPLAN

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.55 am): As the Premier mentioned, from today around 260,000 Queensland school students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will take part in the annual NAPLAN testing. The majority of students will complete paper tests over the next three days. Around 74,000 students at more than 480 state and non-state schools will participate in NAPLAN online ahead of the scheduled full rollout by 2020. Schools will undertake the online testing in a window of time from today through to 24 May. We have worked to ensure that there will be no disadvantage for students undertaking either form of testing. Students will be tested in reading, writing, language conventions and numeracy, with the results to be used to monitor students' progress and assess their areas of strength and development.

It is important to remember that NAPLAN is just one of a number of tools used to monitor students' progress and assess their areas of strength and development, and to help track the progress of Queensland students as a whole. Parents can be confident that the great work that teachers and students do every day in the classroom prepares students well for the tests. Our teachers work tirelessly to support their students' wellbeing and learning. As a result, Queensland achieved some of its highest ever NAPLAN results in 2018, building on a long-term trend of positive literacy and numeracy results across the state.

Since 2008, Queensland students have improved in an outstanding 16 of 20 test areas. For example, last year our year 9 students achieved some of the highest results ever, while in reading and spelling we saw continued improvement across all year levels. In a report published late last year, the Grattan Institute described Queensland as the star performer, with our primary students making two months more progress in reading than the national average between years 3 and 5 and about one month more progress in numeracy over the same two years. As education minister, I want all students taking part in NAPLAN to give 100 per cent as they would any other form of assessment. However, I also want them and their parents to simply stay calm and do their best—great, helpful advice a teacher once gave me.

Research commissioned by the Palaszczuk government identified that there were a range of unintended consequences stemming from the now perceived high-stakes nature of NAPLAN testing. After more than 10 years, it is time for a national review of NAPLAN. While the Morrison government has resisted calls for such a review, federal Labor has committed to a comprehensive review if successful at the coming election, and I welcome this commitment. Queensland's work in this area means that we are ready and able to contribute our findings to a national review. I again call on the Morrison government to listen to all states and territories, parents, students and teachers and commit to a national review. I wish all students good luck: stay calm and try your best.