




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

NAPLAN

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.56 am): I join the Premier in congratulating Queensland schools on their 2021 NAPLAN results. Well done to all 274,000 Queensland school students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 who participated in NAPLAN last year and a big thankyou—huge thankyou—to teachers, principals, staff, parents and carers who supported and prepared our students throughout the process. The school level NAPLAN results available today on the national My School website follow the statewide results that were released last year showing that our NAPLAN results have held up extremely well even with all that COVID-19 has thrown at us. I was especially impressed with students' writing results, which improved across all year levels, with our year 3 students recording their highest results ever.

Our results for NAPLAN 2021 build on what we have done previously. Queensland has been one of the big improvers in NAPLAN since 2008, recognised by the Grattan Institute as a star performer, particularly with our progress in reading and numeracy at primary school level. This is an important point: while we rightly acknowledge and celebrate the highest performing schools in the state, our focus is always on progress and improvement. This means providing each of our students with all they need to reach their full potential—the best teachers, the best school infrastructure, the best school support services—and we are delivering this in spades with \$1.9 billion in infrastructure spending delivering world-class facilities, delivering more than 6,000 new teachers and 1,100 teacher aides over four years, and our \$100 million student wellbeing and GPs in schools commitment to provide students with access to a health and wellbeing professional.

As I have stated previously, NAPLAN is not the be-all and end-all; it is a point-in-time check and just one of many ways schools can track student progress. We also have to remember that NAPLAN school results cannot always be compared like for like.

I am also pleased to inform the House that the review conducted by Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and the ACT has resulted in education ministers agreeing to, amongst other things, moving NAPLAN to term 1 from 2023. Moving the test forward means that valuable dataset will be available earlier in the year to inform teaching and learning programs and to give parents information about their child's performance earlier in the year. The My School data released today provides information about NAPLAN and other matters for every school in the country, but nothing beats visiting a school and talking to principals, teachers and students about the best schooling for your child.