

Question on Notice

No. 419

Asked on 28 March 2019

MS C MCMILLAN ASKED MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (HON G GRACE)

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide an update about the information available about the NAPLAN testing regime for parents and the community?

ANSWER:

In Queensland, schools communicate directly with parents regarding school-specific NAPLAN testing arrangements. Principals and teachers are best placed to provide parents and carers with up-to-date information regarding their school's NAPLAN arrangements.

NAPLAN results are also provided to schools for distribution to parents, outlining their child's individual results, including against the National Minimum Standard. Parents and carers are actively encouraged to engage in communications with their school to discuss NAPLAN results in conjunction with their child's broader school achievement results.

The Department of Education supports school, parent and carer, and broader school community communication through the department's website each year, with materials available to provide contextual information regarding Queensland-wide testing arrangements and processes. These materials can be accessed on the department's website at www.education.qld.gov.au/parents-and-carers/school-information/naplan under *School Information*.

The Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority, as well as the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority, also publish a wide range of NAPLAN communications and support materials on their websites which parents and carers will find useful and are available at www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/ and www.acara.edu.au/.

In 2018, the department led a review into NAPLAN in Queensland to garner an insight into student, parent and school community experiences and perceptions of NAPLAN. While the review identified some positive impacts, it also confirmed differing expectations about the purpose and use of NAPLAN and a range of unintended negative consequences that stem from the increasingly high-stakes nature of NAPLAN.

The Queensland Government Response to the statewide consultation outlines actions the Government will take to achieve this balance, including continuing to advocate for a broad national review of NAPLAN, development of new assessment guidelines for schools, resources for parents and implementing strategies to address the impact of assessment on student and teacher wellbeing.

The Queensland Government Response clearly articulates our commitment to develop and implement a further targeted communications strategy for students, parents and school communities, outlining the purpose and appropriate uses of NAPLAN and other types of school assessment.

An online resource will be developed for parents and schools, which identifies at each year level the types of assessments a student might typically expect.

As outlined in the Queensland Government Response, these online resources will include information for parents and carers about:

- NAPLAN's purpose, benefit, alignment to the Australian Curriculum and limitations;
- who is likely to be involved and what it is testing;
- what to expect in relation to readiness activities, if applicable;
- how the results may be used and to whom they are likely to be communicated;
- whether it is international, national, state or school based; and
- whether it is optional or a core part of teaching and learning.

Information will also be made available to parents and school communities about the types of techniques used in NAPLAN and typical example texts students may experience in each year NAPLAN tests occur—Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to working closely with education stakeholders to ensure the purpose and appropriate use of NAPLAN is clearly understood by students, parents, school staff and stakeholders.