

Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs

MEDIA RELEASE

2011 NAPLAN National Report Released

23 January 2012

The Chair of the Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs, the Hon. Dr. Elizabeth Constable MLA, today released the full set of results from last year's sitting of National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests by students in Years 3, 5, 7, and 9 across Australia.

"Across all domains and year levels, the majority of students across Australia are achieving at or above minimum standards", said Minister Constable.

"Overall participation rates in the tests have remained high since they were introduced across Australia in 2008, a fact which points to the tests' robustness as an accurate measure of how students are performing in key foundation areas of literacy and numeracy."

"NAPLAN results complement teachers' class and school-based assessments to provide a comprehensive picture of student achievement and help determine areas of priority to improve literacy and numeracy outcomes", Minister Constable said.

The report includes results categorised by state and territory, as well as other factors including indigenous status, language background, and by whether students attend school in metropolitan, country, or remote areas.

Also included is information about the comparative performance of boys and girls as well as details about the performance of students categorised by parental occupation.

The report is available at the National Assessment Program's website, www.nap.edu.au, with results also searchable online.

The key findings of the 2011 NAPLAN National Report include:

- In the majority of states and territories, the percentage of students working at or above National Minimum Standards (NMS) is 90% or higher
- At each year level, girls achieved higher average scores than boys in literacy-related domains, while boys outpaced girls in numeracy tests
- Students with a language background other than English generally achieved the same average results as those students who come from an at-home English-speaking background
- Participation in NAPLAN tests continues to be high, with little change in NAPLAN participation since the tests were introduced in 2008

“This report provides valuable information about the performance of Australian students in literacy and numeracy, which are the basis for all other learning,” said Prof. Barry McGaw AO, Chair of the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority, which is responsible for developing the NAPLAN tests.

“The report provides important information that will help educators and policy-makers better understand how students are performing and how to help them improve.”

The full NAPLAN National Report, as well as further information about the National Assessment Program, are available at the NAP website: www.nap.edu.au

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