

25 January 2018

Media statement: Use of automated essay scoring for NAPLAN tests

The Chair of the Education Council, the Hon. Susan Close MP, has released the following statement on the use of automated essay scoring on forthcoming NAPLAN tests.

[start of statement]

“Over the past few years education systems have been working with students, teachers and school communities to transition NAPLAN from a pen and paper test to an online environment. Education Ministers are committed to this transition over the coming years and welcome the many benefits that online testing can deliver to students, their parents and teachers through improved diagnostics and the faster turnaround of NAPLAN results.

In transitioning to NAPLAN Online, education systems have been considering the appropriateness of utilising certain technologies, including automated essay scoring. Automated essay scoring allows for writing scripts to be assessed using sophisticated computer programming.

In December 2017, the Education Council determined that automated essay scoring will not be used for the marking of NAPLAN writing scripts. Any change to this position in the future will be informed by further research into automated essay scoring, and be made as a decision of the Education Council.”

[end of statement]

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