

The effectiveness of the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy

QoN – Senator Penny Wright

Question 2 - Do you agree that NAPLAN is being used for more purposes than when it was first introduced (i.e., evaluation, decision making etc)?

ACARA response

The National Assessment Program (NAP), comprising NAPLAN and the domestic and international sample assessment programs, is the means by which governments, education authorities and schools can judge how well young people are achieving in the relevant area of learning and whether or not young Australians are reaching important educational goals.

From the outset, NAPLAN data were intended to be used in a number of ways by governments, schools and parents to monitor and inform strategies to improve educational outcomes. These data uses have always included policy evaluation and decision making.

NAPLAN tests were developed as a national extension of pre-existing state and territory testing programs, which had been developed over time to:

- assist with informing future policy development, resource allocation, curriculum planning and intervention programs;
- provide ministers with the capacity to monitor the success of policies aimed at improving student achievement;
- provide a basis for reporting progress towards the achievement of national education outcomes;
- provide parents with an understanding of how their child is progressing against national standards; and
- provide increased accountability for the community.