

NAPLAN ONLINE — TECHNICAL ISSUES

996. Hon CHARLES SMITH to the Minister for Education and Training:

I refer to NAPLAN internet dropouts experienced at Arbor Grove Primary School, Malvern Springs Primary School and Aveley Primary School in the East Metropolitan Region, which have also advised me that their internet capability is not sufficient to support the teaching of information and communications technology general capabilities and the WA digital technologies curriculum. How will the government support these and other schools that are without an NBN connection to enable teachers to deliver a twenty-first century curriculum?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

The NAPLAN issues experienced by Western Australian schools in 2019 were the result of nationwide connectivity issues and were not caused by internet availability or capacity issues in Western Australia. Between 2015 and 2018, the Department of Education increased total fibre connected bandwidth capacity by 66 per cent, with further increases planned to commence in late 2019.