

NAPLAN ONLINE

998. Hon DONNA FARAGHER to the Minister for Education and Training:

I refer to the minister's answer to question without notice 662, asked on 22 August 2018, about NAPLAN Online.

- (1) What reviews of NAPLAN Online 2018 are currently being undertaken?
- (2) What are the terms of reference for the reviews referred to in (1), and when are they expected to be completed?
- (3) Will the rollout of NAPLAN Online in Western Australia next year be dependent on the outcome of these reviews?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

- (1) The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority—ACARA—is internally reviewing processes in relation to NAPLAN Online 2018. In June 2018, the Education Council requested a review of the current approach to the presentation of National Assessment Program — Literacy and Numeracy data, including information published on the My School website. The Australian Education Senior Officials Committee—AESOC—has commissioned an independent review, the NAPLAN Technical Review, into the linking and scaling methodologies required to equate tests in the transitional years. The findings will be used to inform ACARA of improvements to arrangements that could be put in place for the remaining transitional years, moving from pen and paper tests to online testing.
- (2) The review currently being undertaken by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority will consider the technical components—adaptive test design and equating process—comparability and communication activities. The review is expected to be completed by November 2018.

The independent review commissioned by the Education Council will look at the presentation of NAPLAN data published on the My School website against the principles put in place when NAPLAN commenced. Those principles include that the data is presented publicly and that the data needs to be valid and reliable and in context, and comprehensive enough so that it can be properly interpreted. The review will also examine how teachers in schools use NAPLAN data to help their teaching practice, which is what NAPLAN was designed to do. It is a review of the publication of data as it relates to NAPLAN, not a review of NAPLAN testing or the way in which assessments are undertaken.

Bill Loudon, Emeritus Professor of Education at the University of Western Australia, has been selected to undertake this review. A representative selection of schools from across the country and across systems and sectors will provide input into the review. It will also include consultation with parents, teachers, students, school leaders, peak bodies and independent experts as appropriate, as well as government and non-government education authorities. The review is underway and is expected to report back to education ministers by December 2018.

The NAPLAN technical review commissioned by the Australian Education Sector Officials Committee will examine linking and scaling methodologies required to equate tests and provide recommendations on comparability across modes and any implications for reporting in the transitional years to NAPLAN Online. This is the one that I was part of calling for. The review will be conducted by a team of three experts, including two internationally recognised psychometricians. It commenced in September 2018 and a final report is anticipated to be provided to ACARA and AESOC by early November 2018.

- (3) Provided that ACARA responds to the recommendations of both the Education Council and AESOC reviews, the rollout of NAPLAN Online in Western Australia will continue as planned in 2019.