

NAPLAN ONLINE

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

I refer to NAPLAN Online and the minister's statement in *The West Australian* of 9 August, and I quote —

“If the stories that we're hearing to date are that the system is not ready, we will not proceed with the final rollout.”

- (1) Has the School Curriculum and Standards Authority completed its analysis of the Western Australian results from NAPLAN 2018; and, if not, when is it expected to be completed?
- (2) If yes to (1), what is the outcome of SCSA's analysis?
- (3) In light of the minister's previous comments, is she intending to make any changes to the rollout of NAPLAN Online in 2019; and, if yes, what are the expected changes?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

The honourable member gave some notice of this question, so I will give the written answer, but I want to add some information, and we have had the opportunity to discuss this behind the Chair.

Originally, the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority, which is the national body responsible for the application of NAPLAN, gave ministers advice that NAPLAN Online, which is being trialled, and the pen-and-paper NAPLAN test could be reported on one scale and that it would be easy to compare the results between them. The ministers drilled into that information given by ACARA and sought specific assurances that that comparison could be done. It became clear on the 2018 results that, in fact, ACARA's advice to the ministers was not right and that discrepancies showed that it was not possible to compare, in its rawest form, online with paper and pen. I preface the next bit by saying that I am a supporter of NAPLAN and NAPLAN Online because I think it is better that teaching staff get access to the data from NAPLAN much quicker, which is the whole point of doing it online, so that they can then adjust the teaching that they need to do accordingly. It has been quite disappointing to me that this discrepancy has occurred.

- (1) Yes, SCSA has completed its analysis.
- (2) Based on the assumption that the revised data provided by ACARA to SCSA is correct, the authority has confirmed that the 2018 NAPLAN results reflect the performance of students in schools who sat the pen-and-paper test and those who sat the online test. Essentially, statistical adjustments have been made so that they are comparable.
- (3) The third part of the member's question was whether, in light of my previous comments, I intend to make any changes to the rollout of NAPLAN Online in 2019. On the advice of SCSA, I am supporting an urgent and independent review of NAPLAN 2018 to ensure that test construction and design for 2019 does not result in the discrepancies we experienced in 2018. The results of that review will inform whether or not WA proceeds with the rollout of NAPLAN Online in 2019.