

Parents Say NSW Public Schools Are Not Ready for NAPLAN Online

P&C Federation is calling on the Minister for Education to delay the implementation of NAPLAN Online, after its annual general meeting unanimously endorsed the motion to request the Department of Education to delay the roll out as NSW public schools are not ready for NAPLAN Online.

P&C Federation Vice President Joel Matthews commented, "We want the Department of Education to address a number of concerns before implementing NAPLAN Online. The foremost being a clarification on how the Online testing will benefit our students over the existing paper based system."

A survey commissioned by P&C Federation has revealed parents are extremely concerned about NAPLAN online testing as an accurate assessment of a child's progress. Only 7% respondents believe that an automated marking system can assess creative work where as an overwhelmingly 82% respondents said students lacking keyboard and computer literacy skills will be disadvantaged due to online testing.

Moreover, leading US academic, Les Perelman's recent analysis of a 2015 paper by Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) has also revealed there are potential flaws in using Automated Essay Scoring (AES) to mark NAPLAN Online writing tasks, indicating that AES is virtually worthless as an educational tool.*

Mr Matthews went on to say, "It is the responsibility of the Department of Education to ensure that the key to an equitable education system rest with the Government, as this is the only way to ensure all our children have the same equitable learning resources."

"It is important to understand the purpose of NAPLAN and whether NAPLAN Online meets those objectives or not. There is a lot of controversy on aspects of NAPLAN Online, from whether robots can mirror human markers when it comes to assessing humour and sarcasm; to parental concerns over equity and the technical capability of schools; and concerns about keyboard proficiency as there are variations in how fast a student can touch/type as opposed to write."

P&C Federation seeks to act in benefit of public education by advocating on behalf of P&C Associations. We implore the Minister for Education to focus on what is in the best interests of our children and delay the implementation until 2020.

Mr Matthews added, "Before pushing forward with Online testing, these concerns must be adequately addressed."

Sydney, NSW, 10 November 2017

Authorised By:

Vice President Joel Matthews

Media Contact:

Communications Officer Hetaal Badiyani 1300 885 982 media@pandc.org.au

FEDERATION OF PARENTS AND CITIZENS ASSOCIATIONS OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Locked Bag 5114, PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Telephone: 1300 885 982 Fax: 1800 655 866

Website: www.pandc.org.au ABN: 37 439 975 796

* Automated Essay Scoring and other facets of the online national assessment platform is developed by Education Services Australia (ESA) via a number of subcontractors.