

“NAPLAN Essay is Defective in its Design and Execution,”: Dr Perelman

A recently released report on NAPLAN by leading US academic, Dr Les Perelman has revealed “the NAPLAN essay assessment is poorly designed.”

The Perelman Report, which was commissioned by the NSW Teachers Federation states “the NAPLAN essay fails to be a valid measure of any serious formulation of writing ability, especially within the context of its current uses.”

The report highlights, “There is too much emphasis on spelling, punctuation, paragraphing and grammar at the expense of higher order writing issues.”

P&C Federation President Susie Boyd commented, “It is very important to first identify the purpose of NAPLAN assessment and then determine whether the assessment meets those objectives or not.”

Ms. Boyd added, “The purpose of any assessment should be to serve as purely diagnostic educational tool and not to create league tables.”

A survey commissioned last year by P&C Federation revealed that parents and students were extremely concerned about NAPLAN testing as an accurate assessment of a child’s progress.

According to the Perelman Report “NAPLAN fosters bad writing and there is a complete lack of transparency in the development of the NAPLAN essay and grading.”

Ms. Boyd went on to say, “This clearly threatens the best interest of our children and it’s time the approaches to NAPLAN assessment are reviewed.”

It will be encouraging to see the NSW Minister for Education Rob Stokes, back Dr Les Perelman’s report.

“Our children only get one chance at an education and we need education processes that benefit our students and ensures that our young people become effective contributing members of society,” added Ms Boyd.

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