

## All schools must have the same resources before implementing NAPLAN Online

P&C Federation's annual general meeting on 26 August 2017 endorsed the motion to request the Department of Education to delay their plans to conduct NAPLAN tests online and continue with a paper based system until parent concerns regarding keyboard proficiency among students, the technical capacity between schools and computer markings are adequately addressed by 2020.

P&C Federation Vice President Joel Matthews commented "What we are concerned about is that NAPLAN online will disadvantage students in schools lacking IT infrastructure and technical support."

"We often hear from parents in Regional, Remote and Rural (RRR) schools that they still do not have wireless access within their school hall environment and this essentially means that students in these schools will be disadvantaged due to lack of resources."

"It is the Department of Education's responsibility to ensure that all schools have the technical support to help them implement the online tests before discontinuing the paper based testing system."

Mr Matthews further added, "It is very concerning whether students in schools lacking the technical capacity or having the keyboard proficiency for undertaking these online tests would be at an equal level."

"The biggest concern among parents has been the reliability of the Automated Essay Scoring (AES) for marking NAPLAN Online over human markers when it comes to marking students' creative writing. They are seeking clarification on how does the automated testing system work when it comes to identifying and assessing humour, sarcasm and expression and what if their child's creative writing skills don't fit the parameters of automated testing."

Mr. Matthews went on to say, "The Department of Education needs to clarify how NAPLAN online will advantage our students over the existing paper based system before implementing it."

"As the peak parent advocacy group, we believe all students must have equal access to the same resources to meet their learning needs and we call on the Department of Education to delay the rollout until parental concerns have been addressed and all schools have the requisite resources- the technical capacity and devices to undertake these online tests," added Mr Matthews.

**Sydney, NSW, 30 August 2017**

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