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How effective is NAPLAN testing over 10 years?

The latest [preliminary NAPLAN results](#) shows there has been no significant improvement in average results across the country since last year.

The Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) has been running NAPLAN tests in reading, writing, spelling, grammar/punctuation and numeracy across years three, five, seven and nine since 2008.

ASG Chief Operating Officer Bruce Hawkins says while some of this year's preliminary results show some improvement particularly in primary school, student achievement has decreased in other areas, echoing recent concerns in the media by school teachers.

"We recently surveyed about 380 Australian school teachers and the [ASG-ACE Teachers Report Card](#) revealed that almost half of all teachers (49 per cent) believe there is too much standardised testing (e.g. NAPLAN) at schools and 45 per cent of teachers believe the current form of testing learning outcomes at schools is either ineffective or very ineffective. Forty eight per cent of educators also believe the focus at their school is more on standardised testing than supporting student development."

Mr Hawkins added, "it is disappointing to see that NAPLAN hasn't achieved its main goal of improving student achievement in literacy and numeracy. We are also equally concerned about the relative decline of Australian students' performance as measured by the OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA). It is time for the state and federal governments to take a good, hard look at what needs to change to ensure that Australian students are getting the best possible education."

For more information about ASG call 131 ASG (131 274) or visit www.asg.com.au

Editor's notes

The Australian Scholarships Group (ASG) is a member owned organisation, helping to create educational opportunities for children. ASG has been helping families and their children for more than 40 years. During this time, more than 530,000 children have been enrolled with ASG and more than \$2.5 billion in education benefits and scholarship payments returned to members. For more information visit: www.asg.com.au

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