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Teachers split on correct amount of testing *Standardised testing vs student development and homework*

Almost half of all teachers (49 per cent) believe there is too much standardised testing (e.g. NAPLAN) at schools according to exclusive new research released today.

However, the ASG-ACE Teachers Report Card discovered 48 per cent of teachers believe the amount of standardised testing is about right, while three per cent of educators surveyed believe there is too little.

When school types are factored in, 61 per cent of faith based¹ school teachers believe the amount of standardised testing is about right, compared to 45 per cent of private school educators and 42 per cent of government school teachers.

The report, a joint initiative between ASG and the Australian College of Educators (ACE) surveyed 380 teachers and discovered 48 per cent of educators believe the focus at their school is more on standardised testing, compared to 52 per cent who believe the focus is more on supporting student development.

The findings are different for teachers in leadership positions, with 66 per cent of principals, deputy principals and heads of department believing their school is focused more on supporting student development, compared to 44 per cent of classroom teachers.

The research also discovered (45 per cent) of teachers believe the current form of testing learning outcomes at schools is either ineffective or very ineffective.

The report discovered 23 per cent of teachers believe the amount of homework students receive is too much, with 68 per cent believing the amount is about right, while 10 per cent of educators believe there is not enough homework.

The ASG-ACE Teachers Report Card also revealed 78 per cent of teachers believe their school has either a very effective or effective social and emotional learning program, which increases to 87 per cent of principals, deputy principals and heads of department.

ASG CEO John Velegrinis says the report is an insightful snapshot of teachers' beliefs regarding testing and the curriculum at their school.

"We've heard the opinions of teachers who are at the coal face of the profession, day in, day out. Teachers, irrespective of the school type or the subjects they teach play a valuable and inspirational role in the development of our young people.

"In some respects, teachers have the same concerns as parents which were identified in the ASG Parents Report Card where the focus on academic achievement can hinder children's emotional and social development. These concerns need more addressing," said Mr Velegrinis.

¹ Government schools – a school that is conducted by or on behalf of the government of a state or territory. Faith based schools – these are sometimes known as systemic schools i.e. managed by a centralised system authority and some are independent schools. Private schools – some private schools are also classified as independent schools i.e. set up and governed on an individual school basis and answerable to a governing board or management committee.

The Australian College of Educators is a professional association that represents teachers across all sectors and systems. CEO Helen Jentz says it is important educators are offered the resources they need to shine.

"The survey reveals the challenges teachers, regardless of school type, face on a daily basis.

"It's heartening that the vast majority of educators are satisfied and are proud of what they do, but more needs to be done. We all have a role to play to ensure the standing of the teaching profession is more valued by the broader public," said Ms Jentz.

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

For more information about ACE call 03 9035 5473 or visit www.austcolled.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

The Australian College of Educators (ACE) provides a collective voice for all Australian educators. It advocates, leads and drives positive change and encourages open, collaborative discussion to enable their broad membership to provide the best outcomes for Australian students across all levels of education.

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