

11 March 2024

Teachers predict high NAPLAN withdrawal rates

The Queensland Teachers' Union (QTU) has said its 48,000 teacher and school leader members expected Queensland's high withdrawal rate from NAPLAN testing to be repeated in 2024.

QTU President Cresta Richardson said Queensland parents were making it clear that they placed little value on NAPLAN as a way to judge their children's educational progress.

"Since NAPLAN began in 2008, Queensland has had a high rate of parents choosing to withdraw their children from the annual testing in years 3, 5, 7 and 9. This choice is being made to avoid the high levels of stress and anxiety experienced by students in this high-stakes but low-value testing model.

"Parents and carers are reminded that NAPLAN testing is voluntary, and they can withdraw their children from testing via their school."

Ms Richardson said parents received a deeper and more accurate understanding of their child's progress through A-E reporting, parent-teacher interviews, and regular feedback from teacher-led assessments across the broad Australian Curriculum in all year levels.

NAPLAN online testing runs from 13-25 March in 2024. Ms Richardson said the testing window also put heavy demands on schools' ICT resources.

"The Queensland Department of Education must fully fund the equipment, upgrades, maintenance and support needed to conduct NAPLAN online, above schools' existing budgets," Ms Richardson said.

"This includes providing enough devices and sufficient bandwidth at every Queensland state school to ensure that other year levels' ICT access is not compromised during NAPLAN testing.

The QTU will continue to call on both state and federal governments to abolish this outdated test in its current form and to give teachers back the time to teach core curriculum areas.

A pre-recorded video and audio file from QTU President, Cresta Richardson is attached for your use and can be accessed here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/z6yg0je0a3hsdqet9cq2q/h?rlkey=lcqhybqv7d7lecf88jjvjgsuz&dl=0>

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