



MEDIA STATEMENT

To Education reporter/Chief of Staff/News Editor
From Garry Le Duff, Chief Executive
Ref ***Independent schools excel in 2011 NAPLAN tests***
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SOUTH AUSTRALIAN INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS EXCEL IN NAPLAN TESTS

Independent schools in South Australia performed well above both the national and South Australian averages in all year levels and all categories of NAPLAN testing in 2011.

The final 2011 NAPLAN report was released today by Federal Education Minister Peter Garrett.

Compared to all South Australian schools, Independent schools had the highest percentage of students in the highest performance band in all categories and the lowest percentage of students below the national minimum standard for reading, writing, spelling, grammar, punctuation and numeracy.

The Chief Executive of the Association of Independent Schools of SA, Garry Le Duff, said Independent schools wanted to see national testing extend students and to help schools and students strive for excellence.

"There is significant government investment in this and we need to see funds used to maximum effectiveness," Mr Le Duff said.

Mr Le Duff said that Indigenous students in Independent schools also performed well above State and national averages for Indigenous students, creating a strong foundation for the future and the work that remains to be done.

A key to Independent schools' strong and improving NAPLAN performances is a range of support and intervention measures provided through the Association, including 30 key teachers to support classroom teachers.

The Association supports schools through its Literacy, Numeracy and Special Learning Needs Program to help schools improve learning for educationally disadvantaged students and participation and outcomes for students with disabilities from Reception to Year 12.

Among the advisers are specialists for English as a second language (ESL) and Indigenous students. Association advisers help schools to understand and use NAPLAN testing to improve literacy and numeracy.

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