



## JOINT PRESS RELEASE

“NAPLAN for all in 2021,” Education experts say.

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Evidence is required to inform decision-making especially when it comes to our children’s future. Given the disruption to regular schooling this year, there has never been a greater need for evidence.

Mohan Dhall, ATA CEO emphasised *“We need the data so we can track performance and direct our education system to be future proof.”*

The data is specifically needed on:

- The impact of school shutdowns on all students
- The specific impact of the school shutdowns on students at risk
- The effect of remote learning on student performance and consequently on their learning
- The impact of different mediums – such as schools that used passive resources and those that used active remote learning (via Zoom and other supplementary tools)

The Education Ministers specifically have declared

**The decision to not proceed with NAPLAN in 2020 has been taken to assist school leaders, teachers and support staff to focus on the wellbeing of students and continuity of education, including potential online and remote learning.**

*“We empathise with teachers and schools and they needed to focus on the wellbeing of students. But what about parents? They deserve to know the progress of their children as well as the gaps created by the interruption assessed by an independent source.”* Said Dr Awawdeh-Author, noted educator and Telstra Business Women Award winner, NSW.

She stated *“The data from NAPLAN is quite significant for all stakeholders, parents, schools and government. Cancelling the 2020 NAPLAN will create a gap that no other assessment will fill. The check-in assessment suggested by the government is not statistically comparable.”*

Dhall also agrees, *“Decisions made in March of this year by Education Ministers were emphatic – and probably necessary at the time given the uncertainty. However, in August it is time to re-visit the 2020 NAPLAN decision. If ever there was a year when we need evidence, it is this year. The NAPLAN tests should be re-instated in October 2020.”*

Dhall believes that the majority of educators are not content with the cancellation.

*“Whilst the vocal, anti-evidence minority movement will be pleased for the cancellation, the vast majority of educators are not pleased. We believe that educators, students, and their parents deserve to know and understand the true effects of the pandemic on formal schooling during 2020. We further believe that decisions in education should look at the implications in*

*the present and longer term. We suspect the effects of Covid could be long lasting, and the sooner we can quantify it the better for early intervention,” he said.*

Dr Awawdeh also revealed that looking at the positives is needed.

*“I am aware that looking at COVID-19 through a positive lens is not the usual thing in the media, however, as an educator who cares about future generations and future directions, I take every opportunity to maximise the positives of every situation. NAPLAN that tests COVID’s impact would have provided much-needed data.”*

*“NAPLAN 2020 is the most significant of all years. It is a signpost that will be used for many years to come to future-proof our education system. It will help dramatically in directing the decision makers for future planning”.* Dr Awawdeh asserted

*It is not too late. This decision can be revisited.*

Both Dr Awawdeh and Mr Dhall are calling for its reinstatement.

*“We hate to think we missed that golden opportunity. We believe that revisiting the decision is still possible. NAPLAN 2020 should be held towards the end of the year or even next year. NAPLAN could be run in 2021 for all students; Year 4, 6, 8 and 10 (the ones who missed the 2020 NAPLAN) and the usual 2021 Year 3, 5, 7, and 9,”* they said in a joint statement.

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