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## NAPLAN Report highlights need to focus on quality schooling

The release today of the NAPLAN 2016 National Report highlights the need for governments, education organisations, universities, principals and school communities to work together in focusing upon the clear goal of every Australian child receiving a quality education at school.

In commenting upon the report, APPA President, Dennis Yarrington, said,

“Recent weeks have seen tremendous attention being given to comparisons of student performance with TIMMS and PISA results being followed today by the NAPLAN report.

“It all comes at a time when primary schools across Australia acknowledge and celebrate the successes of the year. School communities are recognising the depth of talent and creativity of their students through performances and presentations. For many, it is their last year of primary school and the journey of secondary years is soon to begin.”

Mr Yarrington said that the ‘big’ data of these reports does not move in big leaps and nor does it measure every aspect of what happens daily in a primary school.

“Of course, there are key messages that we can take from the results.

“Firstly, there needs to be an alignment between the evidence of what works and the development of good policy and effective practice. We must recognise that all schools need high performing leaders and teachers. All schools require the resources to address the needs of students, especially those struggling with literacy and numeracy. And all schools need the support of their parents, community and government.

“In these closing weeks of school, primary principals and teachers work together in reflecting on the year, identifying areas of need, building upon their successes and setting in place their plans for 2017.

“This Friday, the COAG Education Council meets in Melbourne. We look forward to engaging with government in building the capacity of our school leaders and teachers to address the needs of students today and into the future.”

APPA is the professional association representing over 7,200 Government, Catholic and Independent primary school principals across Australia.

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