

Improved achievement is a collaborative effort

The release of the 2017 NAPLAN and the NAP 2016 Civics and Citizenship for Year 6 and Year 10 results are a snapshot and provide a broad trend of improvement in primary.

APPA believes the results released today are a snapshot and we need to be mindful we don't see the whole picture as negative. The good news from the ACARA report is that 'there has been some improvement across all levels in most domains over 10 years'.

The Civics and Citizenship results show that students report more positive attitudes towards others and our Year 6 are more globally aware citizens. 75% of Year 6 are interested in global issues and in what is happening in other countries. We have seen a significant increase in students demonstrating positive attitudes towards Australia's Indigenous cultures and our country's diversity. 83% of Year 6 see participating in activities to benefit the community as important and 85% believe voting in elections is important (even though they cannot yet vote).

APPA President, Dennis Yarrington, called for more work on building and supporting collaborative processes between schools.

"Competition for results is holding everyone back. Primary principals know that more is achieved working together, both in schools and across schools.

"School successes should be shared so that effective strategies can be fine-tuned by others, taking into account context, location and circumstances."

Early and sustained intervention is the best approach for students needing support. However, it requires resourcing, time, commitment and skilled teachers who can address learning challenges. A focus on ensuring every teacher has the necessary knowledge and skills to teach literacy and numeracy is the best policy driver.

"We know the impact teachers and leaders have on learning, and it is pleasing to see Minister Birmingham pointing to the vital role families must play in supporting children's learning. Additionally, we welcome his acknowledgement of the great work being done by teachers in schools across Australia."

APPA believes we have great teaching and learning happening in our schools. We call on governments and education authorities to **work with** primary principals so that we continue to see improvements in the achievement levels of all our students.

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

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