

# NAPLAN 16

Newsletter: June 2016

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**To keep teachers informed, please make newsletter available to staff.**

This year's NAPLAN tests have gone very smoothly. Thank you to all the teachers and principals who made this happen.

## Some NAPLAN facts

- By June 3, 276 083 pieces of writing had been marked by more than 450 markers working in two shifts for three weeks.
- 3854 boxes of test materials were sent to schools.
- To date 717 026 testbooks have been received for processing.
- Scanning and marking of all testbooks will be complete by 24 June
  - more than six million pages will have been scanned
  - 12 million images will have been created and scored.

Preliminary data will be sent to schools in the first week after school holidays.

Details of the reporting schedule will appear in the July newsletter.

## Marking the writing test

The writing test marking is now complete. Markers enjoyed reading the stories students wrote. The change to narrative meant that student writing was fresher.

Interestingly, students were less inclined to paragraph their stories. Paragraphing stories is more challenging as they are used more as a narrative device to develop the rhythm of the narrative.

A poster describing some of the circumstances in which paragraphs are used in narratives is to be found at [www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/p-10/naplan/test-preparation/writing2/support-materials](http://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/p-10/naplan/test-preparation/writing2/support-materials) (see the *Paragraphs for narratives* PDF on the Support materials tab).

## School-based markers

Eleven teachers from schools all over the state joined us to mark during the day. The support of principals and staff of their schools allowed their participation in this professional development opportunity. Thank you.

These teachers reported that they found participation in the marker training and the subsequent marking of the scripts excellent writing professional development.

These markers suggested that we conduct the marker recruitment sessions in regional areas in Term 3 in order to give schools more opportunity to plan and organise.

In response to this request, we plan to offer recruitment sessions later this year in the following centres:

- Cairns
- Townsville
- Rockhampton
- Bundaberg
- Toowoomba.

Schools will be notified of dates and venues soon.

## School visits

QCAA staff visited some randomly selected schools to observe the 2016 NAPLAN test administration.

These observation visits form part of the QCAA's continuing review of the NAPLAN test administration and help maintain the accountability, security and proper conduct of the tests in schools.

Thank you to the school principals and staff for your cooperation.

## NAPLAN online

The QCAA is working with each of the three sectors to look at the transition strategy for NAPLAN online in Queensland. The current planning is for up to 100 schools to transition in 2017. These schools have already been identified by each of the sectors and they will participate in the platform trial and readiness testing (PTRT) in August 2016.

As well as the usual trialling of items for the following year, this year, some additional schools will be asked to participate in one of two additional studies — a linking study or a scaling study — designed to inform the results reporting. As a result, additional schools will have the opportunity to experience online assessment.

The item trialling as well as the scaling and linking studies will take place online. This will give the selected schools insight into how their students will engage with elements of NAPLAN online.

Each of these activities will be conducted by a contractor working for the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA).

### What is a scaling study?

The scaling study will collect data needed to construct scales with known psychometric and scale properties for the NAPLAN online tests.

From 2017, with the initial implementation of the online test, these scales will be necessary in order to report test results and to create new student reports for those taking the NAPLAN tests online.

In addition, the scaling study will collect unbiased and nationally representative estimates of the distribution of student ability required to develop and set new NAPLAN proficiency standards.

A sample of 51 schools has been selected to participate in this study and will use the tailored test design.

### What is a linking study?

The purpose of the linking study is to link the existing NAPLAN assessment scales with new scales developed for the online tests. The results of the linking study will enable the joint reporting of student performance across both the online and paper tests during the transitional 2017–2019 period.

A sample of 24 schools will participate in this study, which will also use the tailored test design.

### Trialling the 2017 items

Each year schools are asked to complete trial papers made up of items for the following year. This is done to check that the items are working as they should and to collect the item statistics that the test constructors will use to put the tests together.

This is a very important activity. Schools are asked to participate in item trialling every few years. The only difference this time is that the trialling will be completed online.

A sample of 24 schools will be asked to trial the 2017 items.

### Platform trial and readiness testing

The largest of the new NAPLAN events will be a test of the National Assessment Platform that will deliver the online tests. In August of this year, these schools will trial the online testing platform and their students will have the opportunity to sit a writing test and a general test featuring the kind of items that will be part of online assessment.

These schools will be able to provide feedback and advice about the platform and the online processes and documentation. Importantly they will be able to get an idea of the implications of online assessment for their school.