SMALL STEPS ON A LONG JOURNEY

September 14th, 2012

The release today of the 2012 NAPLAN National Summary Report shows the hard work and commitment of Territory teachers is slowly paying dividends.

Education Minister, Robyn Lambley, said while the Territory still has the nation’s poorest education outcomes, there have been improvements since NAPLAN tests were first conducted in 2008, although gains since 2011 are marginal.

The figures include student Mean Scale Scores (MSS) and the proportion of students at or above the National Minimum Standard (AANMS) for NAPLAN test domains of reading, numeracy, spelling, grammar and punctuation and writing.

Data containing regional break-downs and other student sub-groups such as gender will be released on December 17 and individual school results will be available in February.

The NAPLAN figures shows the percentage rate of improvement in AANMS in the Territory is stronger than in other jurisdictions and that Territory students tested in 2008, 2010 and 2012 showed the greatest gains nationwide.

However there was no significant change in Mean Scale Scores, despite a significant improvement in Year 3 spelling.

New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia showed significant declines in at least one measure between 2008-12 and all jurisdictions except the Territory and Tasmania showed significant declines in at least two measures between 2011 and 2012.

Nevertheless, the 2012 test results still show the Territory has the lowest student attainment in every test domain and year level.

“While I acknowledge that outcomes have remained largely consistent without any significant declines in key reporting areas —they do start off a low base,” Mrs Lambley said.

“The results are too low and the gap between Territory outcomes and the rest of Australia remain substantial.

“It is a credit to the effort of Territory educators that they have defied national trends and largely maintained outcomes at around existing levels.

“It is a key commitment of the Country Liberals to lift the Territory’s NAPLAN results through measures including standardised term testing, the establishment of an expert panel on literacy and numeracy and better incentives and conditions for teachers.”

Families will receive individual student NAPLAN results next week.

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