Early years focus yielding results

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The Country Liberals Government’s focus on the early years is yielding some positive early results with the release of the 2014 National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) National Report today.

The full national report includes a detailed breakdown of results by geographical location, cohort and indigeneity and follows the summary report released in August which showed increased participation rates across the Territory.

The two-year cohort gains* from Years 3 to 5 have shown promising improvement in reading, spelling, grammar, writing and punctuation and numeracy, bettering the national average rate of improvement in each test domain.

Some notable improvement in this area was the Territory’s Indigenous students’ grammar and punctuation, rising 122 mean scale score points compared to 92 nationally. Similarly, the rate of improvement in reading grew by 97 points compared to 89 nationally.

Territory non-Indigenous students moving from Years 3 to 5 also bettered the national average for mean scale score improvement in every category.

Minister for Education Peter Chandler said the Government had made the early years a key focus of its education reforms in order to establish a solid foundation for future learning.

“Research from the Grattan Institute shows that investment in the early years yields the best results as you set students up on the right trajectory throughout their schooling life,” Mr Chandler said.

“It makes me very proud to see our additional investment in this stage of schooling achieving results for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students.”

Despite some promising improvements the Territory continues to lag behind the national average for students meeting national standards. This is with the exception of non-indigenous students in remote and very remote areas.

“This has always been the case here in the Territory and it is just not good enough,” Mr Chandler said.
“The Country Liberals Government has taken on a number of reforms to improve results. Reviews of Indigenous education, middle years’ schooling and the continuing review of the Education Act have made some historic recommendations that this government is implementing.

“Additionally, the Expert Panel on Literacy and Numeracy Report has given schools the tools to really improve in these essential learning areas.”

*A two-year cohort gain refers to the improvement a particular year level achieves against their results from the last time they took the NAPLAN test i.e. Year 3 in 2012 v Year 5 in 2014.

The 2014 NAPLAN National Report can be found on the National Assessment Panel’s website:


**Media Contact:** Jarrad Schwark 0437 914 736 or 8928 6617