HIGH MARKS FOR TERRITORY STUDENTS

3 August 2016

Northern Territory children have recorded some of the strongest education gains in the country.

NAPLAN preliminary results, released today, show significant performance growth across most age groups and testing areas compared with previous years.

Year 3 students are leading the way, with improvements across all five testing domains – numeracy, reading, writing, spelling, and grammar and punctuation.

Education Minister Peter Chandler said the improvements in Year 3 reflect the Country Liberals’ significant investment in early childhood education.

“The Government recognises the importance of providing the best possible start for all children and continues to invest in and provide quality early-years education and care for children from birth to eight years of age,” Mr Chandler said.

“The investment in early-years education is reflected in the results.”

Year 5 students in the Territory have also improved in writing, numeracy and grammar and punctuation.

Writing results improved in each of the four year levels, with a big increase in the proportion of students who are at or above the national minimum standards compared with last year.

“The 2016 NAPLAN preliminary results are very pleasing and something that teachers, students and parents should all be proud of,” Mr Chandler said.

“I would like to acknowledge the efforts of our hard-working teachers who continue to support efforts to improve education in the Territory.

“It's important to recognise that while there have been significant improvements, there is still a long way to go to reach parity with the rest of Australia.

“We have some of the highest rates of disadvantage in the country, and a higher number of children for whom English isn't their first language.

“The Government has implemented strategies to tackle some of the problems, with a strong focus on early intervention, school attendance and improving the outcomes of Indigenous students.
“For example, Direct Instruction in 21 government and non-government schools has been specifically addressing reading, spelling and writing achievement for students in remote schools.”

Mr Chandler said nine schools across the Territory began delivery of Direct Instruction in maths this term.

“The most important factor for the ongoing success of young Territorians is regular attendance at school,” he said.

“The Government has focused on getting students to school every day to improve their learning outcomes, achievements and ultimately improve their career and life options after school.”

Families will receive their children’s individual NAPLAN results later this month.

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