

MEDIA RELEASE

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Parents Express Grave Concerns

"Parents are gravely concerned with the reporting today of schools using NAPLAN data to determine a young person's suitability for enrolment," Peter Garrigan, President of the Australian Council of State School Organisations, stated today.

"NAPLAN is only one piece of evidence for parents and teachers to see how well a student is doing at school. It can be most helpful in being able to identify their progress in literacy and numeracy."

"While we understand that many secondary schools have criteria to prioritise applicants when considering out of area placements it is totally inappropriate for the NAPLAN results to be used in such a way," Mr Garrigan continued.

"This can only lead to parents feeling pressured into withdrawing their child from the test and, while we note that only a small number of schools are involved, we would encourage any parent who experiences this to ensure they inform their relevant education department."

"NAPLAN results should only focus on ways to improve an individual's progress, and that should be the only judgement made. It should not determine a young person's suitability to for enrolment," Mr Garrigan concluded.

For further information:

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Australian Council of State School Organisations

<http://www.acsso.org.au>