

# AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR THE DEFENCE OF GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

## PRESS RELEASE 665#

### NAPLAN RESULTS INDICATE

#### FAILURE OF PRIVATISATION EXPERIMENT

The preliminary NAPLAN results for 2016 are in. They have plateaued. i.e. there is no real result one way or the other. The 2016 results show reading scores have increased by 0.4 per cent since 2013, writing scores have declined by 0.2 per cent and numeracy scores have risen by 1.26 per cent. Over the same time period, federal school funding has increased by 23.7 per cent.

The interpretation of the figures is on for young and old.

DOGS believe that they prove that throwing money at private schools and starving public education has proved deleterious, not only for public education but for the whole country. In keeping up with the international Joneses, it is national suicide. Successful countries in Europe and Asia look at us and laugh!

The Federal Education Minister Birmingham, broke the news for his own purposes. He wanted to justify the Coalition's refusal to give more funding to education, and in particular disadvantaged children in public schools. He is only half right. There is wastage – but to the advantaged private sector.

The Australian Education Union claims that the education Minister is misusing the latest test results to divert attention from an issue that caused a significant voter swing away from the Coalition in the recent election – the Turnbull Government's refusal to fully fund the Gonski needs based model. Their mistake is their current reluctance to confront the private religious sector, and in particular, the Catholic Education sector which duplicates and now replaces, the public sector.

Chris Bonner from Save Our Schools, however, got somewhere near the truth when he said: *The most advantaged school students are receiving high levels of funding for very little return, while disadvantaged students are left languishing.* And, putting it 'nicely'

#### FUNDING IS NOT BEING DIRECTED APPROPRIATELY

How true: Australia needs to bite the bullet and

#### STOP STATE AID TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Reports in the media can be found as follows at

1. [https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2016/aug/03/naplan-results-writing-reading-numeracy-scores-plateaued-gonski-funding-link?CMP=Share\\_iOSApp\\_Other](https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2016/aug/03/naplan-results-writing-reading-numeracy-scores-plateaued-gonski-funding-link?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other)

### **Experts say Malcolm Turnbull using 'flimsy evidence' on school funding**

2. <http://www.smh.com.au/national/education/2016-naplan-results-not-good-enough-says-federal-education-minister-simon-birmingham-20160802-gqiy7y>

### **It's a real concern: Birmingham**

N.B. DOGS note with interest that a spokespersons for the Catholic sector are quoted as experts on the way forward for Australian education !

3. <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2016/aug/03/naplan-results-show-disadvantaged-children-left-to-languish-expert-says>

### **Naplan results show disadvantaged children left to languish, expert says**

4. <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/aug/03/the-naplan-trap-the-other-side-of-the-plateau-is-a-long-downward-slope>

### **At the other end of the naplan plateau is a long downward slope.**

5. <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/aug/03/naplan-results-we-should-be-wary-of-simplistic-arguments-about-funding>

**Education funding: we should be wary of simplistic arguments about money and outcomes**

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