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MEDIA RELEASE

Technical faults must prompt full NAPLAN review

The Australian Education Union in Victoria says media reports today that online NAPLAN testing technical difficulties are widespread show the federal government must review the test. Victorian schools are expected to administer NAPLAN tests this week despite a raft of unresolved problems with the standardised test and technical problems with NAPLAN online.

AEU Victoria has repeatedly called on the Federal Education Minister Dan Tehan to conduct a thorough review of NAPLAN. Standardised tests like NAPLAN undermine the quality of student learning and cause significant and unnecessary disruption to schools.

“NAPLAN online is a debacle. Schools have raised a raft of problems in practice tests over recent weeks,” said president of the AEU Victorian Branch, Meredith Peace.

“NAPLAN online has been fraught with technical difficulties. Schools are having trouble logging on to the online NAPLAN system and then difficulties with system drop-outs and internet bandwidth.

“Parents won’t be able to trust the 2019 NAPLAN results and their confidence in their school will be undermined.

“Schools are left to deal with significant workload issues associated with administering the test. The Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority has consistently failed to identify and act on critical errors. Underfunded public schools also do not have the IT infrastructure and support to administer the tests smoothly.

“The most effective way to assess students is the informed judgement of a teacher. A point in time standardised test cannot capture the abilities and progress of a diverse student population.

“We call on the Morrison Government to conduct an urgent review of NAPLAN, rather than proceeding blindly with a flawed testing system,” said Ms Peace.

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