



#### This week's stories from the media

- SA makes small gains in NAPLAN but still trails
- One fifth miss NAPLAN benchmark
- Anti drugs campaign warning SA schools
- School sport should be run by sporting clubs
- Facial recognition roll trial
- RU OK? Day
- Things to do when reading with kids

#### One Fifth Miss NAPLAN Benchmark

Students across Australia have achieved their lowest writing results since NAPLAN tests began, with more than one-fifth of year 9 students not reaching the national minimum standard.

"National benchmarks are not set very high and that's just not good enough," Grattan Institute's schools expert Pete Goss said.

"In a typical to slightly disadvantaged secondary school, one-third of year 7 students are still learning to read, they're reading at a year 3 or 4 level, one-third of kids are at a year 5 or 6 level and a third are at a year 7 level or above."

"That degree of spread in curriculum capability is incredibly tough for a high school teacher to deal with, they're not trained to teach basic reading and writing."

"This shows they're not managing to overcome that and get every 15-year-old to where they need to be. We need to start early and improve support for foundational skills."

[Read the story](#)

#### SA Makes Small Gains In NAPLAN But Still Trails

**South Australian schools have made modest improvements in NAPLAN results, but still trail all states except Tasmania.**

SA students achieved higher mean scores compared to last year in 12 of 20 domains, and Education Minister John Gardner said they were better relative to the national scores in 15 cases.

SA's mean scores were below the national marks in every test at every year level, as was the proportion of students who met the benchmarks known as the national minimum standard.

Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 take the tests in reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy.

The latest NAPLAN figures show some gains in Years 5 and 9 numeracy, and primary level reading

"There are some encouraging signs in the results, but they also demonstrate that more work needs to be done," Mr Gardner said.

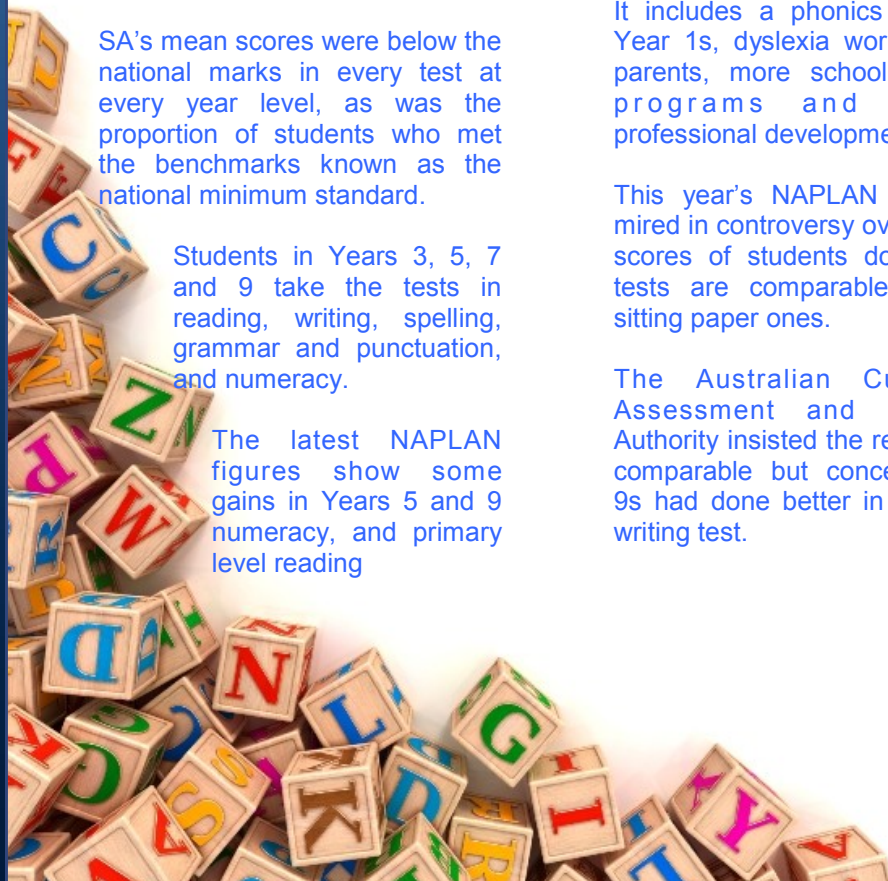
He said the State Government's "literacy guarantee" package would deliver further improvements.

It includes a phonics check for Year 1s, dyslexia workshops for parents, more school breakfast programs and teacher professional development.

This year's NAPLAN has been mired in controversy over whether scores of students doing online tests are comparable to those sitting paper ones.

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority insisted the results were comparable but conceded Year 9s had done better in the online writing test.

[More](#)



**“...National benchmarks are not set very high and that’s just not good enough....”**

### Anti-Drugs Campaign Warning SA Schools

High school students are being warned that using the drug ice just a handful of times could ruin their dreams of becoming elite sport stars as it can bring on symptoms of the debilitating Parkinson’s disease.

The warning is part of the message to be delivered in South Australian schools by the Australian Anti-Ice Campaign from November.

Organisers say there is “no doubt there are kids in South Australian schools using ice”.

AAIC already runs school programs in Queensland and operations manager Glenn Ivers said it had emerged there that drug dealers were targeting teenagers and some high school students had been expelled for selling ice at school.

“Some kids tell us about a third of students at their school are on it.”

“It will be happening in SA.”

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### School Sport Should Be Run By Sporting Clubs

School sport should be run by local clubs or peak bodies, rather than time-poor teachers who may not have the right skills, South Australia’s new sports boss has declared.

In coming months, new Sport SA chief executive Leah Cassidy says she plans to put a series of proposals to ministers responsible for sport, education, child protection and human services.

“We constantly hear that teachers are so busy and there’s a crowded curriculum. Let us help,” she told The Advertiser.

“Sporting clubs and associations could play a much larger role in school sport. It used to happen ... over the last five to 10 years, that has fallen off.”

“Are kids getting the best coaching and grounding in that sport anyway if it’s being delivered by teachers?”

[More](#)

### Facial Recognition Roll Trial

Australian schools are being asked to trial technology which will allow them to phase out morning roll call and spy on students throughout the school day.

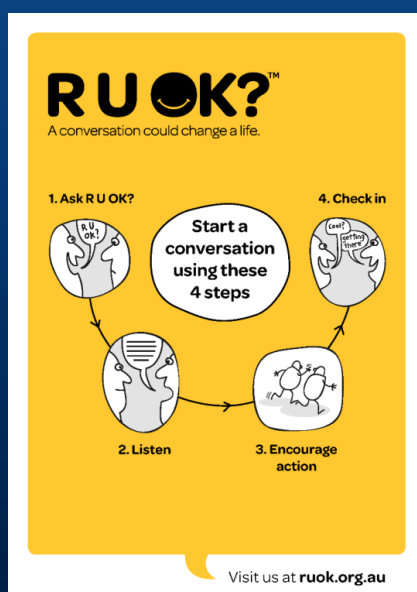
Start-up LoopLearn is hopeful its advanced facial recognition technology and “small, unobtrusive devices” which scan campuses for students in real time, will be embraced by schools across the country.

The technology is designed to eliminate the need for time-consuming roll calls and ensure students can be accounted for on school grounds at all times.

[Full Story](#)

### RU OK? Day

September 13



### Things To Do When Reading With Kids

A recent study reveals the six things you should do when reading with your children.

1. Tune into your child.
2. Ask questions.
3. Go beyond describing images or reading text.
4. Make logical links between different parts of the story.
5. Add relevant details.
6. Talk about mental and emotional concepts.

Perhaps the most important aspect of reading to children is to tune in to your child. Listen to your child’s cues.

Do they like the story? Do they know the vocabulary? Are they paying attention to the pictures more, or the text?

[Read more](#)