

17 November 2015

Media release

Report highlights need for renewed focus on digital technologies

Chair of the COAG Education Council and Queensland Education Minister, the Hon Kate Jones MP, today released the 2014 National Assessment Program (NAP) – Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Literacy Report, and in doing so noted that there needs to be a renewed focus on the teaching of digital technologies in schools.

The NAP ICT literacy tests assess students' ICT knowledge, understanding and skills, and their ability to use ICT creatively, critically and responsibly. Approximately 10,500 students participated in the online assessment, randomly selected from over 650 government, Catholic and independent schools.

Comparing their results with previous assessments, the report shows a weakening in the average performance of Year 6 and Year 10 students in 2014. There has also been a reduction in the percentage of students meeting the NAP – ICT literacy proficiency standards.

Minister Jones noted:

“There is a risk that, as students increase their use of digital technology, assumptions will be made about their level of ICT expertise and knowledge.

When presented with such test results, it is appropriate to pause and assess any assumptions that may be made about students' knowledge, understanding and skills and their ability to apply these across the full range of possible uses.

ICT literacy is vital for students to participate in a world that is dependent on these technologies. Students cannot reach the proficiency standard required in this assessment simply by using their own personal devices.

The Australian Curriculum: Digital Technologies provides the opportunity to renew our focus, attention and commitment to the teaching necessary for a sophisticated use of ICT – skills that all Australians need to develop.”

The Digital Technologies curriculum was endorsed by the Education Council in September this year. It provides students with knowledge, skills and understanding through which they can safely and ethically create, modify and construct digital information and systems for specific audiences and real-world purposes.

Read the full report is available at <http://nap.edu.au/results-and-reports/national-reports.html>

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