

ISOLATED CHILDREN'S PARENTS' ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA



2022 FEDERAL CONFERENCE CURRICULUM PORTFOLIO MOTIONS

A24. Mount Isa Branch of the Air (QLD)

CARRIED

“That ICPA (Aust) advocates to the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) and other relevant bodies for geographically isolated students to continue to be offered practical choices/alternatives for sitting National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) testing.”

Explanation:

In light of NAPLAN moving to an online format, our branch is concerned that the options for geographically isolated students to complete the tests have been restricted particularly for those families who:

- are unable to travel to their school to participate in the NAPLAN testing due to distance/family work etc,
- do not have suitable internet connection to access the tests from home/place of schooling, or
- have incurred limitations on students being allowed to complete the testing where they reside.

We also understand there may have been inconsistencies across schools as to the options available, with some schools providing differing information to families.

Options for sitting NAPLAN need to remain in place for geographically isolated students who may have difficulty in getting to a school for testing due to distance, and others may have difficulty in accessing NAPLAN in an online format due to being in a remote area without internet. Families need to be clearly informed of their options and these options offered consistently.

Examples:

A family living and working in a fencing contractor camp situation in remote Northern Territory and enrolled in a Queensland School of Distance Education, asked if their children could sit the NAPLAN online at their camp. They have recently set up a transportable satellite internet unit at a huge cost to their family which would allow them to do the testing online. Their school of distance education put in a request for all students enrolled at the school to sit NAPLAN at home if required, however, this family was one of eight families in the school that were not granted permission. The family was advised that the children would need to go to the closest school to sit NAPLAN in person as they were considered to be too close to a school for them to receive permission to participate from home. The closest school for the family at the time was located more than 200kms away at Borroloola NT and it was not possible for the family to attend at this school due to work commitments on the property that they were on.

Another family that our branch is aware of also lives and works in a camp situation in NW Queensland. This family did receive permission to conduct NAPLAN at ‘home’ however they were out in camp and did not have internet facilities available to them for their children to participate.

A25. Mount Isa Branch of the Air (QLD)**CARRIED**

“That ICPA (Aust) works with Australian Boarding Schools Association (ABSA) and other organisations to raise awareness among boarding schools that some rural and remote students are unable to participate in National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) testing and other external examination programs due to geographic isolation reasons, and this should not impact on their eligibility for enrolment at boarding schools.”

Explanation:

There are students living in rural and remote areas who have difficulty accessing examination programs such as NAPLAN, ICAS and ACER due to the distance they have to travel in order to be at a testing centre or lack of adequate internet (or any internet) where they reside for most of the school year. Some boarding schools ask for NAPLAN results, ICAS, ACER and other external examination information to be submitted during enrolment processes. Geographically isolated students who are unable to sit these types of examinations should not be penalised if they are unable to participate due to where they live or lack of internet service. We ask ICPA (Aust) to help raise awareness with boarding schools of the situation that some geographically isolated students are in and for schools to take this on board when considering these students for enrolment, so that there is no detrimental effect on these students who are unable to sit those types of examinations.