

## **PORTFOLIO REPORTS – STATE COUNCIL**

### **Distance Education, SOTA & Curriculum Report**

#### **Chandra Ridley – Portfolio Holder, March 2020**

At the 2019 State Conference **Motion A7** was presented relating to the Distance Education/SOTA/Curriculum Portfolio concerning funding for the position of Support Teacher Learning (STL) in Schools of the Air (SOTA).

This issue was raised at a meeting with the Minister for Education and Training, Honourable Sue Ellery, MLC, during State Council's July face to face meetings. The Minister would not guarantee the position but did state that it was funded for twelve months at a time and the role would not be diminished.

#### **CURRICULUM**

In 2019 the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) was completed online by over 50% of students Australia wide. There were over 350,000 tests submitted successfully on the first day, but though a number of schools experience technical difficulties. The remainder of the week went smoothly with a total of 1.5 million tests submitted online.

In WA 40,000 students from 300 schools were affected by technical difficulties with 17,000 students choosing to re-sit the writing component. In September Minister Ellery stated that no student would be disadvantaged by technical difficulties and their highest test score would be recorded, regardless of if it was on the first or second test. Other States chose to use the score from the second test.

At least two Schools of the Air (SOTA) successfully completed NAPLAN online in 2019. This was completed during school camps, so tests were conducted in a formal setting at the same time as mainstream schools. This was advantageous for teachers administering NAPLAN online as they had the support of the Education Department call centre.

The School of Isolated Distance Education (SIDE) completed paper-based NAPLAN tests in 2019 and will be doing the same in 2020. There were issues with the online format including difficulty of access for overseas students.

The move to NAPLAN being solely online has been delayed until 2021 in an attempt to fully overcome the technical difficulties experienced last year.

To view the 2019 NAPLAN summary results, visit <https://reports.acara.edu.au/NAP>

#### **SOTA & DISTANCE EDUCATION**

Meekatharra SOTA celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in September 2019. A function was held at the school on the Saturday, followed by an informal get together on the Sunday. Feedback was positive from both events with past and current students, home tutors and teachers attending.

SIDE had a very successful orientation day on 13<sup>th</sup> December for those enrolling in 2020. Around one hundred parents and students attended, with families offered the opportunity to tour the SIDE campus, talk with school leaders, the student services team and teaching staff. Students also participated in online learning activities.