



**Media Statement**

**9 May 2017**

### **NAPLAN testing aligns with CEWA focus on data**

As students across the state prepare to participate in the annual NAPLAN (National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy) testing this week, Catholic Education Western Australia (CEWA) has highlighted the benefits of using data to inform the best possible learning opportunities and outcomes for students.

Dr Tim McDonald, CEWA Executive Director, said NAPLAN testing was one of many tools Catholic schools used to chart the development of students.

“NAPLAN aligns with an increasing focus by CEWA on data analysis to deliver improvements in teaching and learning practices. NAPLAN testing is not intended to fully measure all aspects of students’ learning, but it does provide students across the country with an opportunity to demonstrate their learning in numeracy and literacy on the same day, in the same test,” he said.

“CEWA assists schools with analysis of NAPLAN results to ensure each school is able to make the most of this data, including trends in results they may want to focus on,”

“While NAPLAN provides data on literacy and numeracy, CEWA is implementing data analysis to deliver benefits in a variety of ways in our system. This includes a new digital learning platform, that enables educators and students to benefit from analytics on learning content in their classrooms, as well as work by our Teaching and Learning Team to analyse a variety of data on schools across the system provided by school staff,” Dr McDonald said.

Catholic schools have shown sustained improvement in student outcomes in recent years, which Dr McDonald attributed both to this use of data in decision-making, as well as schools promoting cultures where each staff member is responsible for the success of each individual student.

“We have terrific staff working in schools throughout WA who are committed to delivering a Catholic education that supports students in their spiritual, intellectual, social and emotional, physical and creative development,” he said.

“CEWA schools aim to prepare students to thrive in our rapidly changing world. Preparing students to be confidently literate and numerate is an important part of this development, and NAPLAN testing is one way in which Catholic schools meet this need,”

*\* NOTE – Comments are provided by Dr Tim McDonald in his capacity as CEWA Executive Director. Dr McDonald is also a board member of the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA).*

**ENDS**



## **Media Contact**

### **Catholic Education Western Australia**

Simone Warden

Head of Marketing and Communications

08 6380 5153

0416 836 919

[Simone.Warden@cewa.edu.au](mailto:Simone.Warden@cewa.edu.au)