APPROPRIATE PREPARATION FOR NAPLAN

In the lead up to NAPLAN in May, it is important to ensure we take a balanced and reasonable approach to prepare students for these tests. This approach reflects our commitment in the strategic plan to a culture of high performance and high care.

High performance and high care are mutually supportive objectives. We know that students do better when they are feeling positive and settled; and they feel more positive and motivated when they are performing well. The evidence confirms that success breeds confidence and high self-esteem.

The best preparation for students for NAPLAN is to provide a broad and balanced literacy and numeracy program that is integrated with teaching the Western Australian Curriculum. It is important for teachers to know the curriculum and how to teach it, and to know their students and what they need to learn.

I strongly support you giving your students opportunities to become familiar with the structure of the tests and the environment in which the tests are held.

I would be concerned, however, if we saw an emergence of excessive test preparation, particularly the over-use of previous tests which does not build literacy and numeracy capabilities in students.

NAPLAN test materials may be used to support students in preparing for NAPLAN, and NAPLAN Planner resources may be used to support students in areas of identified need.

I appreciate your attention to this important matter.

SHARYN O’NEILL
DIRECTOR GENERAL

8 March 2016