

Proposed Year One Assessment Screening Position Paper

September 2017

QASSP is deeply concerned by recent proposals by the Commonwealth Government that state and territory jurisdictions should introduce 'assessment screening' for Year 1 students across Australia. Principals view the proposal as an ill-informed reaction to recent reports on Australian schooling and note that it does not address the real issues about improving student outcomes in Literacy and Numeracy.

All state and territory jurisdictions already have in place school entry assessment tools that are used to inform learning and teaching from the very first year of formal schooling. Current assessments are not used for the purpose of simplistic external accountability. Schools use these early entry assessments to make judgements about student achievement that identify students at risk and support teacher planning. The proposed administration of a nation-wide phonics assessment and numeracy check in Year 1 is an unnecessary duplication.

Principals and teachers are already well aware of where support is needed in the early years. Rather than undertaking an expensive, unnecessary test, these funds could be directed towards supporting the learning needs of all students as they progress through their primary years, leading to success in secondary schooling and later life.

QASSP opposes any move towards extending the existing national testing regime. QASSP strongly urges the commonwealth, state and territory governments to undertake genuine consultation with Australia's school leaders about critical resourcing and support for primary school students.



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