

### NAPLAN Results

In May, more than one million students across Australia, including more than 75,000 from SA, in Years 3, 5, 7, & 9, sat for the 'National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy' (NAPLAN). The tests included reading, writing, spelling, grammar, punctuation and numeracy.

The results reveal that although there was a 'slight' improvement from last year, SA still ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation:

- SA students this year achieved better average scores in 12 out of 20 categories, than those tested last year.
- More SA students reached national minimum benchmarks in 16 out of 20 categories, than in 2008.
- However, SA students still scored below the national average in 18 of 20 categories – all but Year 9 and Year 7 writing (compared with 15 of 20 last year).
- Fewer SA students than the national average achieved the benchmarks – 15 out of 20 categories (compared with 17 out of 20 last year).

For the first time, the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) will publish results from 2008 and 2009 on every school's performance. This week, parents will receive report cards showing how their child's results compared nationally.

### Test Results

### Technical College Facing Closure

The Spencer Gulf and Outback Technical College is facing closure at the end of the year – due to lack of funding.

The college caters for Year 11 & 12 students who want to complete their SACE and start an apprenticeship while still at school. But closure will leave about 45 current Year 11 students who are part way through their course, in limbo.

The college, one of three in the state, was established by the former Liberal Government, but Labor will withdraw funding at the end of the year. The other two have been moved into the Catholic Education system.

### And then there was none

### Complex Students Need Better Support

Smaller class sizes and more support staff are needed to help teachers deal with growing numbers of "complex" students.

The percentage of special-needs children in mainstream public schools has more than doubled - from 10.24% of the total student population to 22.36% since 2000 - according to figures by the teachers' union. However, principals estimate the numbers are under-reported and the situation is worse.

### One size doesn't fit all

### Employers Call For Bigger Class Sizes

Western Australia's peak employer group, has demanded a return to larger class sizes, saying there is no evidence that the national trend to smaller classes has led to anything other than a drop in teaching standards.

'The Chamber of Commerce and Industry' said the education system was not producing the outcomes business needed, and had to change. The move to smaller class sizes had created thousands more teaching positions, but standards were lowered to fill them. In a report, the employers called for:

- "Temperament" testing of student teachers to ensure they were suitable
- Higher entry levels to ensure only the best people could be teachers
- Testing of students against international benchmarks to ensure they were globally competitive.

### Wrong way - go back

### Popularity Of International Baccalaureate

The International Baccalaureate has nearly 750,000 students, in 2,718 schools, across 138 countries. Its curriculum focuses on delivering a qualification recognised by universities worldwide. As an independent body, the IB has flexibility to make quick curriculum changes - a feature not found in a state or national curriculum.

The program is being adopted by more primary schools in SA than in any other state; 18 private and 28 public schools.

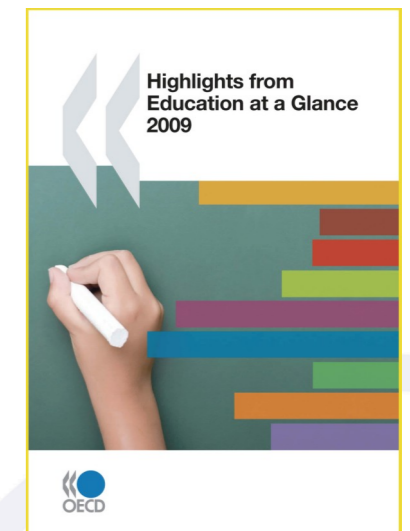
### IB UP IN SA

### OECD 2009 Education Report

'Education at a Glance' is an annual report that evaluates education systems worldwide. It compares data on a range of aspects from percentage of GDP spent on education, to class size, to teacher pay.

Education Minister, Julia Gillard, admits the 2009 report shows that Australia has not invested enough in rewarding quality teaching, literacy and numeracy and early childhood education – and that these are areas in obvious need of improvement.

### More than a glance



### 1000<sup>th</sup> Apprentice

A thousand SA students have started a school-based apprenticeship through the 'Trade Schools for the Future' initiative.

The 10 trade schools opened from the start of 2008 with the target of 1200 school-based apprentices by the end of the 2010 school year.

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