



Julian Leaser MP
Federal Member for Berowra
Shadow Minister for Education
Shadow Minister for Indigenous Australians

MEDIA RELEASE

5 August 2026

NAPLAN RESULTS SHOW WE NEED A NEW WAY FORWARD

This is another disappointing round of national results. Since Labor changed the way we measured outcomes in 2023, funding has gone up significantly, but results have not.

In fact, in most cases, kids are behind where they were years ago.

In numeracy, scores have increased by around 1% since 2023.

But in every other domain – spelling, reading, writing and grammar – scores have either flatlined or gone backwards.

Shockingly, in Tasmania the participation rate is so low, due to union strike action, that scores are not included so Mums and Dads do not know how their kids are going.

The failures in the delivery of the writing test mean that we cannot rely properly on this year's results.

And across the board gender-based gaps are not closing or are in fact getting worse: girls are now further behind on year 9 maths than they were 3 years ago, but the boys continue to fall behind on every other measure

Clearly, money is not the issue, and I am calling on every Labor government in Australia to stop pretending that funding is the answer.

We have much more fundamental problems – with curriculum, with discipline and with the way that we teach. We need a renewed focus on quality.

ENDS

Media contact: Chantelle Fornari | 0427 998 927 | chantelle.fornari@aph.gov.au