

5 October 2021

Dear MSCA members,

Throughout July and August of 2021, MSCA surveyed its 33 member schools regarding their preference for the method in which NAPLAN is to be delivered to our students. The feedback from this survey clearly highlighted that Montessori schools vary on their opinions about a paper-based or online option for the various year groups and about which year groups would benefit most from accessing either an online or paper-based NAPLAN test.

As a result of this feedback, MSCA sent correspondence to each state Association of Independent Schools and each state's Educational Authority requesting an option for exemption from the move to online NAPLAN testing in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 for 2022 and beyond. MSCA would like to thank Bronwyn Hope, Principal of Beehive Montessori School in Western Australia, for her compilation of the background research and formulation of the letter that was sent to these governing bodies. The letter requested that the decision of delivery of NAPLAN be school-based. She also outlined that Montessori philosophy is to "Follow the Child", and as such each Montessori School should make this decision based on the best interest of their student cohort.

MSCA is delighted to share the response from the Western Australian School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA) on 26 August 2021, outlining the decision to continue to provide NAPLAN as a paper-based test is not a state-based decision. SCSA did however advise that recent communications from the Australian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (ACARA) confirmed the national decision to allow Western Australian Montessori Schools who are approved to deliver an alternative curriculum to be provided with the option to use paper NAPLAN tests for 2022. We now eagerly await other state Educational Authorities' decisions to allow Montessori schools to continue to offer paper-based NAPLAN tests if this is their choice.

MSCA is very proud to be a collective voice for Montessori Schools and Centres across Australia and will continue to work for Schools and Centres to progress authentic Montessori practices for all children, families, and Montessori practitioners nationwide. Please do not hesitate to contact MSCA regarding areas that your school or centre would like support with.

Warm regards,



Cathy France
MSCA Board Chair