NAPLAN ONLINE

Byte #3

Spotlighting a key topic, for your school community
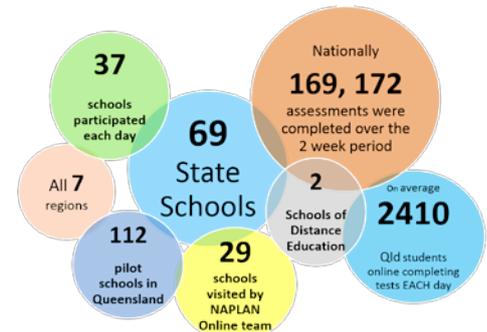
August trial findings

August 2016 saw the successful completion of the Platform Trial and Readiness Test (the Trial) of the national assessment platform that will be used for NAPLAN Online.

Queensland's 69 pilot state schools from seven regions successfully participated in the Trial to familiarise and train in using the platform. Their Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students attempted writing and omnibus tests online, while their teachers and principals practised the online administration and classroom procedures.

Participation

From the 69 state schools, Queensland had on average, 37 schools participating in the Trial each day, with a daily average of 2410 students completing a test.

School feedback, collated through surveys and observations has informed improvements to the national platform.

37 schools participated each day

All 7 regions

69 State Schools

112 pilot schools in Queensland

29 schools visited by NAPLAN Online team

Nationally 169, 172 assessments were completed over the 2 week period

2 Schools of Distance Education

On average 2410 Qld students online completing tests EACH day

> "No issues around connection, freezing or opening of pages coming from a 1.5Mbps school."
>
> *Mutchilba State School*

Technical readiness

Initial results from the Trial have been mostly positive. The Trial confirmed that the pilot schools had more than sufficient bandwidth and infrastructure capacity to access the platform and deliver online assessment.
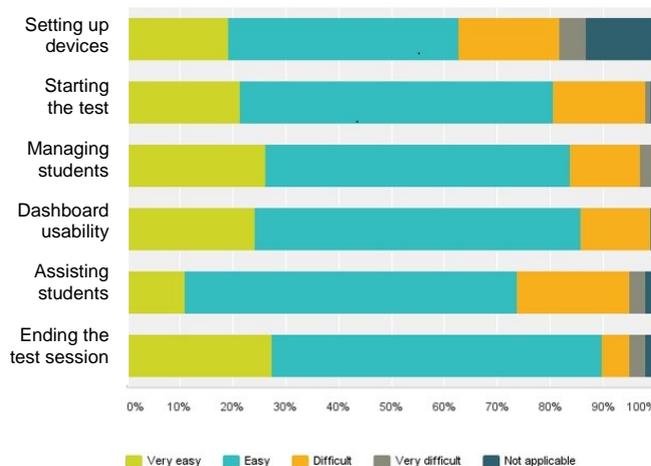
The platform performed well during the Trial. Most principals and NAPLAN Coordinators successfully used their dashboards to set up and monitor test sessions.

Schools accessed the platform using a range of devices. Schools needed to download the Locked Down Browser. This process has been improved as a result of the Trial and it is now faster and simpler for schools to install to school owned devices.
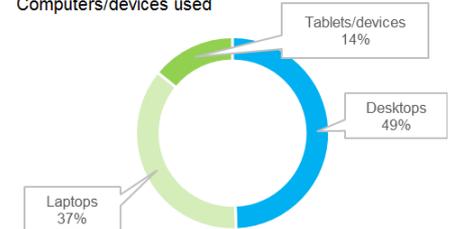
> "The technology generally worked: our students treated the PTRT seriously, our teachers ran and administered the test effectively and our processes worked well."
>
> *Albany Creek State High School*

Staff readiness – administrating tests

Setting up devices
Starting the test
Managing students
Dashboard usability
Assisting students
Ending the test session

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Very easy   Easy   Difficult   Very difficult   Not applicable

Computers/devices used

Tablets/devices 14%
Desktops 49%
Laptops 37%

ICT ownership

BYO
Only school devices 85%

Queensland Government

Student readiness

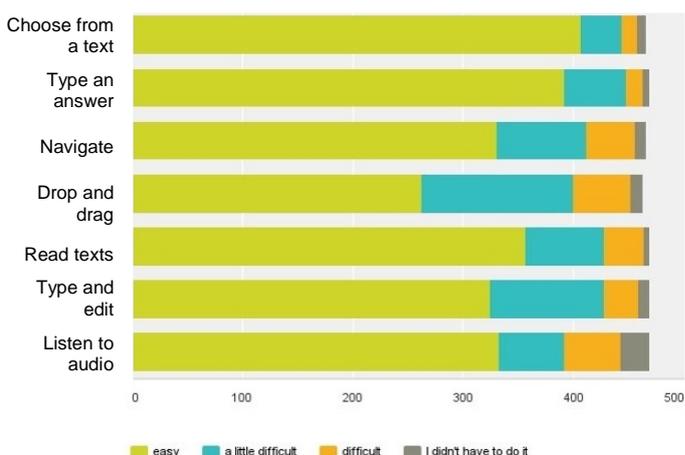The student survey was completed after the tests.

All year levels are represented with 55% being Years 3 and 5 students.

Most students preferred typing their written response to handwriting.

17% of students found reading on paper harder than reading on screen.

Most students preferred to type their answers and 63% of students liked using headsets.

Students rated how easy it was to use these ICT skills

Categories (top to bottom): Choose from a text, Type an answer, Navigate, Drop and drag, Read texts, Type and edit, Listen to audio

Legend: easy, a little difficult, difficult, I didn't have to do it

Lessons learnt by schools

Pilot schools provided valuable feedback with the following suggestions:

- Develop a whole school approach to digital pedagogies and ICT competencies.
- Train staff in using the test administrator dashboard and managing different situations, such as pausing students and dealing with computer freezes.
- Ensure NAPLAN Coordinators and technical support staff are on hand to resolve issues quickly.
- Check the schools network and WiFi access points.
- Provide ongoing communication and feedback to school communities via newsletters, meetings, fact sheets, website, social media and videos.

"I LOVE using the computer. My hand doesn't get puffed when I type and I can go back and change words and move things around to make it better. I don't like changing my handwriting because it gets messy."
Year 3 student, Cooroy SS

"Our students are taking to it like ducks to water." Goondiwindi SHS

"The internet didn't prove to be an issue, I thought it would definitely be slow and frustrating, but it seemed to go quite well." Mount Isa School of the Air, parent.

"The majority would prefer to do it online." Glenvale SS

"The majority of students were extremely positive about the online testing experience." Frenchville SS

"All in all, we had a very productive and informative day – certainly a great start to our NAPLAN Online experience!" Greenbank SS

Quick links

ACARA's NAPLAN Online website
http://nap.edu.au/online-assessment

Research and development
http://nap.edu.au/online-assessment/research-and-development

Public demonstration site
http://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/naplan-online/naplan-online-public-demonstration-site

Technical requirements
http://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/naplan-online/technical-

NAPLAN Online OnePortal page

https://oneportal.deta.qld.gov.au/Education
Delivery/Stateschooling/Successfullearners/
Pages/NAPLANonline.aspx