

Resolution 2: National Education Standards

VIEW Clubs of Australia call on the State and Federal Government to ensure funding and resources are sufficient to address the educational needs of children who fall below the National Educational Standards for their year level in numeracy and literacy and provide programs and resources to meet the educational needs of children failing to attain the National Standards in numeracy and literacy as indicated by NAPLAN.

Rationale:

Most recent NAPLAN results conducted at years 3,5,7 and 9 reveal that one in three Australian students are not meeting accepted numeracy and literacy benchmarks and need additional support to experience success at school and to bridge a widening educational gap.

Arguments for the resolution:

- Education is the cornerstone of a country's progress and development.
- Every child is entitled to access programs and resources that will provide them with the opportunity to achieve their educational potential.
- Falling behind National Benchmarks indicates a student is not achieving the learning outcomes expected and is likely to need additional help to progress.
- Additional school funding is crucial for educational reform and provision of resources that will assist students to catch up and keep up.
- Children thrive in their early years of education making early childhood intervention critical.
- Additional support programs, evidence based teaching and regular screening checks are required to closely chart student progress against the Standards.
- There is a need to bridge the achievement gap between student cohorts through additional support for indigenous students and for students from lower socio-economic communities where student benchmarks reflect lesser achievement of expected learning goals.
- Focus should be on equitable funding, high-quality teaching, early intervention, and support for struggling students. Addressing these areas fosters an environment of personalised and inclusive learning, ensuring all students can succeed, regardless of their background.

Arguments against the resolution:

- There is limited government funding to focus on what may be seen as a minority.
- There may be difficulty in the training and provision of adequate numbers of teachers to successfully plan and implement programs.
- Geographic isolation of some students may impact upon the ability to supply support programs in those areas.
- Lower school attendance rates of children from indigenous and lower socio-economic communities may be a contributing factor to reduced achievement levels and would need to be further addressed.