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## Catholic Schools want Intervention NOT Competition

The Australian Catholic Primary Principals' Association (ACPPA) supports measures to ensure that students in all schools receive the best possible teaching and learning in Literacy and Numeracy.

However, **ACPPA does not support a 'one size fits all' approach to testing Year 1 students** as outlined by Minister Simon Birmingham's recent announcement of a phonics screening check across primary schools by 2018 and the implementation of a numeracy check by 2019.

The Minister's announcement does not acknowledge the hard work of teachers or the assessment processes and strategies already in place in Australian schools.

ACPPA President, Mark Mowbray believes, 'all teachers are continually assessing their students in order to cater for their needs, and a *one size fits all* approach will not benefit teachers and students across Australia.'

Australian teachers are highly trained and skilled in assessing students' progress. They already use a range of strategies and tools to gather information about a student's learning profile. This includes their strengths, skills and what intervention or extension is required within literacy and numeracy programs.

**Additional testing for Year 1 students is not the answer.** As professionals, we are consistently being undermined from sources outside the teaching profession, who seemingly want to increase competition rather than collaboration.

ACPPA would prefer to see additional funding provided to all schools to support teachers in the classroom, to reduce class sizes, for students with disabilities, indigenous students and support structures to ensure the mental health and wellbeing of Australian students is addressed.

ACPPA represents Australia's 1220 Catholic primary schools, which educate over 400,000 students and employ over 30,000 teaching and support staff.