

NAPLAN Automated Essay Scoring Trial — ACARA's Evidence-Based Decision to Keep Human Markers

AI in Education · Good practice · Australia

Quality score: 60/100

Evidence strength: Quasi-experimental

Summary

ACARA found four AI essay-scoring systems scored NAPLAN writing as reliably as human markers, yet Australia's Education Council decided in Dec 2017 against AI marking for high-stakes national testing, citing bias and opacity risks.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of learning impact	0/3
Equity & inclusion	2/3
Transparency, ethics & data protection	3/3
Teacher capability & pedagogy	2/3
Scalability & sustainability	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-07-13

[Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority \(ACARA\)](#) — accessed 2026-07-13

[The Educator K-12: Automated essay scoring 'as reliable as human markers' \(2015\)](#) — accessed 2026-07-13

[IEU NSW/ACT: Is robotic marking a threat to the profession?](#) — accessed 2026-07-13

[ACARA media release: NAPLAN testing concludes for 2026 \(27 March 2026\)](#) — accessed 2026-07-13

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