



educational
transformations

Monday 14th June 2010

Committee Secretary
Senate Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary,

Inquiry into the administration and reporting of NAPLAN testing

I respond to the invitation to provide a submission to the Inquiry, and offer the following commentary, on terms of reference

(c) the impact of the NAPLAN assessment and reporting regime &

(d) international approaches to the publication of comparative reporting of the results, i.e. 'league tables';

1. A copy of *'Why Not the Best Schools?' What we have learned from outstanding schools around the world. By Brian J Caldwell and Jessica Harris. 2008.* I include particular reference to Chapter 9. Strategies for an Education Revolution.
2. *A Principled Stand on National Testing. (January 2010)* This article was in response to the Australian Education Union's recent call for a boycott of the NAPLAN testing. It examines some shortcomings of the testing regime, and specifically looks at the international experience of testing.
3. *Where is the Innovation, where is the Passion? (March 2010)* Innovation and passion are alive and well in schools throughout Australia. However capacities in these areas are increasingly constrained in a command-and-control approach that is leading to an unprecedented level of centralisation, standardisation and bureaucratisation.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the enquiry.

Yours Sincerely

Brian J Caldwell

Managing Director of Educational Transformations and Professorial Fellow at the University of Melbourne, where he served as Dean of Education from 1998 to 2004.