

From:
Mrs Bernadette Dunne

I would like to raise a number of concerns around the use of NAPLAN data and NAPLAN in general. I have 5 children at school here in Queensland and I am totally against NAPLAN and how the information is used against schools and hard working teachers. It is evident that teachers are under so much pressure to 'make the grades' in NAPLAN test therefore what is happening is teachers are preparing the children for a 'one off' test. Everything seems to be geared towards the need to satisfy NAPLAN rather than the need to educate the child for future success. When I was at school, everything was geared to a 'one off' test at the end of the year. Students were deemed to be less intelligent if they did not pass this one test. Thankfully, authentic testing is now used and children are continually assessed in a fair and reliable way. Teachers do not use 'one off' tests to assess children's development as this has been proven not to work in the past. Why then could anyone possible think that NAPLAN is a fair, reliable, authentic way to assess our young children? It is quite obviously a step in the wrong direction. The Myschool website is another totally unacceptable way to assess and then compare schools. The information is very misleading. At my childrens' school, some parents have already removed their children from the school and sent them to a (supposedly) better school. These parents were happy with their child's progress and the school yet they have removed their child on the basis of a 'one off' test that does not really tell anyone how a child is progressing. Common sense must prevail for the sake of our children, local communities and our hard working teachers.

Regards,

Bernadette Dunne