

The effectiveness of the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy

Dear Committee,

My submission is a personal submission, based on 15 years of Mathematics teaching experience in Queensland.

I submit that NAPLAN tests are very effective for the following reasons:

- NAPLAN tests allow states to benchmark against the rest of Australia. This nationwide external exam has been extremely helpful in exposing an urgent need to fix the disappointing numeracy and literacy standards in Queensland schools.
- The NAPLAN test is created by the same body that produces the National Curriculum, thus the NAPLAN tests (when given at the same time under the same conditions) produce very valid and reliable data. We have very little of this type of accountability in Queensland.
- Since its inception, I have either taught a Year 9 Mathematics class or I have been involved in supervising the tests at my school. I have never witnessed any student suffer distress during NAPLAN testing periods.

- The evidence of education theorists should be considered with an abundance of caution. Please see the Queensland Parliamentary website (<http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-committees/committees/EIC/inquiries/current-inquiries/QldAssessment>) for evidence (via 280 + submissions) that education theorists have had their views accepted in the past only to create an ineffective turmoil. Approximately 80% of these submissions slam the theorists and their inquiry-based learning models. The submissions establish fairly convincingly that inquiry-based learning models are not as effective and efficient as direct-instruction methods. In addition, they confirm that external accountability in the form of external exams like NAPLAN is the best way to obtain valid and reliable data on our students.

I certainly hope NAPLAN continues.

Sincerely,

Brian Joye