

In my role as Support Teacher: Literacy and Numeracy, I have seen the negative impact of NAPLAN testing on students whose learning difficulties make the set tasks set impossible. The students I supervised did not qualify for exemption but were unable to read the texts or questions well enough to make any attempt at the tasks. They were very frustrated by their inability to perform the tasks and ended the sessions feeling that they were failures - a feeling that they experience only too often in the classroom anyway. They are able to understand that they are behind the majority of the class and that special provisions need to be made for them to achieve. They do not need to have the stress of NAPLAN testing to make their failures even more obvious.