

From:  
Ms Alison Jales

Having moved to Australia from the UK, I thought we were escaping from the culture of labelling schools, teachers and students as "failing" based on League Tables. My daughter was reaching an age where she was going to encounter teaching for the test, which I strongly disagree with so we moved here. Luckily her school has not yet begun to teach for the test, but I know of many other local schools which are doing this. This is doing a huge disservice to students. My concerns are as follows:

My School publishes data based on NAPLAN tests, which are not always good tests.

NAPLAN tests are held early in the year so it is impossible for teachers to have covered all of the areas in the test well. This can result in teachers just teaching on a superficial level for the test.

Teachers are becoming aware of test tricks which they are teaching to students (e.g. leaving an empty line every so often to show evidence of paragraphing) which affect results.

NAPLAN testing is always used in the media as evidence of "failing" students, schools etc., and the My School website facilitates this.

Not enough consideration is given to ESL students.

Students receive a report showing a comparison with others around Australia, which must be hugely demoralising for students who struggle at school.

The language on the NAPLAN maths tests may account for up to 80% of errors, and is therefore not a good test of students' mathematical ability.

The My School website lends itself to the creation of League Tables, which are hugely damaging to students, teachers and the entire community.

Neither NAPLAN nor the My School website contribute to the improvement of teaching and learning in anyway that I can see.