

My school, King Island District High School, is the most isolated school in Tasmania. When King Island parents choose a school for their children the choices are limited. Either enrol in King Island District High or enrol in a private boarding school. So when King Island parents access our school data in the Myschools website they rarely compare our data to like schools rather they compare to city private schools. This is never a fair comparison.

As we are the only school in our community we often receive criticism from our parents. But this criticism is often totally unfair and is due to the parents ignorance rather than their knowledge. Where we receive criticism from our parents we often receive compliments from visiting educationalists who truly understand the quality of the education we offer. By publishing the NAPLAN data we fear that our school will suffer more unfair criticism. King Island District High school offers an education from Kinder to Grade 10. To access a full compliment of subjects in Grade 11 and 12 students are left no option but to leave the island. Several private schools actively recruit our students for Grade 11 and 12 but they are beginning to offer our students scholarships in Grade 9 and 10. The students who are successful in gaining these scholarships are always the more literate and numerate students. Regardless of how well our school is performing, when these students leave the school our NAPLAN results will fall. And if our NAPLAN results fall more parents will consider transferring their child to the private system. A vicious circle. How can we win? Publishing NAPLAN data is not fair and can never have a positive outcome for King Island District High School.