

From:
MS DIANE PEARTON

I would like to acknowledge the usefulness of the NAPLAN tests themselves. They provide detailed information to teachers and parents that can be used effectively to target areas where students and schools are less strong, so that these can be targetted.

However I have seen the immediate effect of viewing their school on the My School website had on students of our local comprehensive High School, the only government school option within 100kms. These students were disheartened and ashamed of their school's performance, as represented on the site. My explanation of the results, and my demonstration that some individual students (including my own three children) from the school did exceptionally well, did nothing to console these young people.

They are now ashamed of their school. I don't believe that this outcome can be justified by the call for 'transparency' in education, unless drastic remedial action is taken to level the playing field of education, and to provide options to those most vulnerable, who have no choice of schools.

It appears that the My School website blames the victims of low socioeconomic status, the students and teachers that have the toughest learning environments.