

I would like to express my concern about a number of aspects of the reporting of NAPLAN data through the MySchool website.

1. The first thing that is noticed when looking at a particular school's data on the MySchool website, is the green and / or red colouring. This immediately forces our brains to make a judgement – the school is either good or bad. We do this without any conscious effort. This is NOT how we should be reporting data, as it leads to an immediate judgement that does not necessarily have any validity. This colour coding should be removed.

2. At my school we had 5 students sit the NAPLAN test in each of Years 7 and 9. Both year groups were represented with an average mark, and the number of students in each band was also reported. This has serious privacy implications. Almost everybody in the local community knows which student would achieve the lowest result in our NAPLAN tests. Therefore, anybody in our community can go to the website and find out exactly how that student went in each area of testing. I went to a lot of effort to ensure that that student did the tests, as we value the data we get back. However, given the same circumstances in the future, there is now no incentive at all for me to push for weaker students to sit the tests. Five students should not be enough for reporting on the website. It should be at least 10, and preferably even more.

3. The reporting of results only in areas of Numeracy and Literacy will inevitably lead to narrowing of curriculum in schools. Already we have seen many education jurisdictions in Australia start to pressure schools to improve results on NAPLAN, at the expense of other areas of the curriculum. Other countries have gone down this path, to the detriment of education. We currently have a high quality broad curriculum. Reporting on only numeracy and literacy will weaken our education system.

4. The ease of League Table creation from the data presented is not acceptable. The fact that the Sydney Morning Herald broke the law in their publication of a league table, and were not prosecuted, demonstrates that league tables will be produced from this data. This is very damaging to schools who are doing the best they can in difficult circumstances. League tables make it even harder for schools in these areas to improve student outcomes and offer a broad, relevant curriculum.

5. The reporting of an average raw mark and then using it to compare to other schools, is a very crude method of comparison. If there must be some such comparison, then value added data is a much more fair measure to use. This growth data needs to be highlighted on the website as the first thing seen, with effort required by the user to be able to view raw data.

6. There have been numerous rumours concerning less than ethical practices in supervising the 2010 NAPLAN tests. This is no surprise. Now that schools are

aware that their results will be published and league tables probably created, they will no doubt push the limits to ensure they are portrayed in as good a light as possible. So therefore, anything published on the site must be free from any hint of corrupt practice. If NAPLAN cannot be supervised in a more guaranteed reliable way, then its results should not be published.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.