

I am a parent, and I help a Kindergarten teacher with math groups once a week at a Primary School. My submission raises a couple of points to consider concerning NAPLAN reporting.

One of my daughters sat NAPLAN, and the results were as I expected. As a parent taking an interest in my children's education, I have a good idea of what level of literacy they have attained. However, I can appreciate that NAPLAN is an important tool in providing education managers with feedback on general levels of literacy in the country; and to identify individuals who may require some extra help in this area. I would imagine that implementing NAPLAN testing is expensive. I can understand that once this information has been gathered and processed at such great cost, it would be very tempting to try to make something more out of it; apart from identifying schools that would benefit from funding for additional literacy programs. I personally know students that have benefited enormously from these literacy programs. However, to have these test results offered up to parents as a means of comparing schools is unfair to all those concerned. However tempting, it should be resisted; as this may lead to more harm than good. All parents dream of having a way of determining the best school for their children. To offer information gained from NAPLAN testing to parents as a measure of overall school performance is inappropriate and misleading.

I see teachers working very hard to improve the levels of literacy in their class, and in preparing students for the NAPLAN test. If the results of this test are then used to compare schools unfairly, I believe that this would have a negative effect on school morale. I would imagine that the support from teachers for NAPLAN would lessen, and the results of the testing would be compromised. Therefore, the original and positive initiative of implementing NAPLAN to give an honest and accurate picture of basic skills in the country would be undermined.