

From:  
Mrs Cheryl Russell

I am a primary school teacher of 35 years. I currently teach a Year 3 class and the NAPLAN test this year was ridiculously hard, especially the Reading test. Even my brightest students struggled to answer the questions which were over-complicated and the texts were too long and with very difficult concepts for Year 3 students. The whole test put unnecessary stress on my students, for no apparent purpose.

I think that the My School website is unfair on schools, particularly on those who are in the low socio-economic areas, with many students with complex issues. It is unfair to compare these types of students with the ones in the leafy green eastern suburbs of Adelaide.

It is going to discourage teachers from wanting to teach in the more difficult schools and this is going to further impact on the students.

I have also heard that the principals in the northern schools have had their jobs threatened if their results don't improve. That is outrageous! It is unrealistic to expect that the children from these disadvantaged areas are going to perform as well as the affluent areas. Teachers are also going to say that they do not want to teach children in Yrs 3,5 and 9, as it is stressful enough these days and the NAPLAN test is adding to it.

Brain based learning tells us that children living in abusive, emotionally damaging situations are unable to learn at the same rate as children in a stable environment and this is well documented.

I want the NAPLAN test scrapped, especially at the Year 3 level, and the MySchools website scrapped as well.