

From:
Mrs Lyn Gascoigne

The only way you can get an accurate picture of a school is to step into the environment of that school and observe the wonderful things that are happening. YOU MAY ALSO DISCOVER WHERE THAT SCHOOL NEEDS SPECIFIC FUNDING OR EXPERTISE. I wish to point out that the term "My School" is, and should be about individuality and difference, a school's strengths and achievements across all aspects of a balanced curriculum. I would also like to draw your attention to the importance of the arts and the need for specialist physical education and specialist science as important. NAPLAN testing does not test a student's power of inquiry, their urge to ask why and to find out, their love of painting, their desire to learn about and play music or to sing, their wonderment at the exploration and discovery within science, their desire to draw and invent and make. Any government of the day should be boosting and funding and supporting government education while still allowing for choice to send your child to a private school, for whatever reason. But the first priority is for equal and good education for all, to make a smarter country, not a divided, ignorant and narrow minded country. We need brains that can think expansively as well as read and write competently. We need to value our teaching population and provide sound and exciting, valued and well funded training. Respect and praise and a sense of worth for our children from all socio-economic backgrounds is vital. A good education system for all and respect for everybody's right to learn as best they can despite where their school may be is what we need. Do not stigmatise, traumatise or divide our children into categories. Just fund education realistically and make it relevant and wonderful, challenging and productive, imaginative and investigative for all.