

I am concerned about the impact of the NAPLAN on current curriculum breadth. It has already become the case at the school where I teach that greater time is being allocated to literacy and numeracy than was done previously.

My school is in Broken Hill, a very remote city in NSW, and yet on the MySchool site we were not compared with any other Broken Hill schools. This is surely a mistake, our economic picture re financial similarities to other schools must be outweighed by our remoteness from the rest of the state. We must be more like other Broken Hill schools than like anywhere else in NSW.

In our town the results were used to create a league table for the local paper that was then used as justification for a personal vendetta by an ex-town counsellor. This year we have seen a lot of movement from schools that did poorly to other schools. There are many factors that a simple test administered on one day of the year cannot reflect. The way children learn is a complex subject.

The things teachers have to deal with before they can get down to teaching can't be brushed aside. Basic needs must be met before children are able to learn; this is scientifically proven, not teacher mythology. Good teachers deal with sociological and behavioural situations as well as teaching the curriculum, but we are now under pressure "to get results".

The bullying of principals and teachers by the department higher ups has risen dramatically.