

To those interested,

Although we need some way to ensure all children are being educated professionally and effectively, the measurement and monitoring of this is not easy. And what we end up measuring may be useful but it represents only a small part of a 'whole' education.

And when the media and government use this information as a club and measuring stick it creates a lot of half-truths and misunderstandings. It also acts as an obscuration or deflection as to what really needs to occur to create schools where all children can learn.

I do feel the results are interesting and can be used to assist students, however, when these tests become the centre of an education debate or 'movement' - and most other elements are left out of the discussion - we exclude so much of what education is really about.

In my view, standardised testing has not done much for the children. At the end of the day education is about producing a child who will develop into a mature, well-formed adult who can be of great service to society. NAPLAN leaves out so much in the creation of a great education that it deserves only a small part in the development of an education system that works for all children.

I believe we need to take the politics (especially standardised testing) out of education and replace it with principles. As Ghandi said, "Literacy (and numeracy) in itself is no education."