

From:  
Mr Peter Waterman

I am a principal in a small rural school in Victoria. In the past 5 or 6 years, I have noticed that the importance placed upon NAPLAN results has increased decidedly. It is now used in annual reports, in triennial reviews and of course in the My School website. Many principals I know feel personally responsible for their schools NAPLAN results and have resorted to purchasing commercially available programs which are designed to improve children's NAPLAN scores. I believe this has had the effect of devaluing NAPLAN results overall and also, more damagingly, has seen valuable teaching time devoted to "teaching to the test". I am concerned with how the results of the national testing is used, but am also convinced that this form of testing is not valid and is detrimental to student learning.