

Penelope Gill
Women's Contact Person
Sylvania High School Teachers
Sylvania High School
Bellingara Rd, Sylvania
NSW. 2224

re: Senate Enquiry NAPLAN

This is a public test therefore we feel that it should be administered by non-teaching staff, as is the NSW School Certificate and Higher School Certificate. This would ensure that there are no breaches of security. Considering the importance placed on NAPLAN results, it is essential that the process is secure.

The administration of NAPLAN places an excessive burden on those teachers who administer it. This year in our school, we have estimated that it took in excess of 50 hours to administer and complete returns of NAPLAN. In addition, the principal spent several hours registering new and absent students on line. The on line registration was not straight forward, even for a competent computer literate user. In a school, to administer catch up tests is very disruptive and relies on teachers to use relief time to administer. There is currently no release for any teachers who are involved in the administration of NAPLAN.

We have several students with documented physical, intellectual and learning disabilities and receiving funding support, who had to complete the NAPLAN regime, in order for our school to receive additional funding. The distress suffered by these students is unnecessary and unjustified. Staff were extremely upset and angry that these students were subjected to this traumatic experience.

We feel that is invalid to use year 7 results to be published and used as a reflection of the performance of a High School, when we have only seen these students for 13 weeks, and transitioning from Primary is our prime concern.

We feel that it is unrealistic to use a single "snapshot" of student performance. In NSW schools, we have rigorous school-based assessments. If we are genuine about giving parents accurate information about student performance, we must include school-based assessment across all years.

This has been prepared by Anne-Margaret Vassallo, Federation Representative, Sylvania High School and Penny Gill, Women's Contact Person, Sylvania High School.