

From:  
Ms Lisa Donoghue

To whom it may concern,

I have witnessed in the past and this year taken part of the NAPLAN phenomenon. I have noted that many 3,5 and 7 teachers teach to the test particularly in the two week lead up prior to NAPLAN week.

Even though research has proven that this does not support greater results, teachers are driven to this teaching strategy out of sheer panic and fear for future reactions to their classes performances.

Outcomes from the results of the tests do not seem a positive impact on schools. What is the intent of NAPLAN? Do we want teacher against teacher, school against school, district against district and state against state? What is the point?

Parents are also victims of this form of testing. I was very surprised this year by the test anxiety exhibited by parents. This of course filters to their children and it takes a mighty effort to overcome. Many children become upset and other usually high achievers can shut down.

I love teaching. I love providing learning experiences that challenge my students and encourage critical thinking. However, I feel my wings are clipped severely when faced with the charts, graphs and general NAPLAN gobbledygook that seek to humiliate and undermine teachers.

Regards  
Lisa Donoghue.