

The effectiveness of the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy.

QoN – Senator Penny Wright

Question 3 - On the issue of test preparation – ACARA has noted there is no “one-size-fits-all” approach to preparation that will work for all students”. Is there a “one-size-fits-all” test that will successfully measure achievement for all students?

ACARA response

NAPLAN is a rigorous and robust test of a number of key elements of literacy and numeracy, and provides standardised (nationally comparable) data. NAPLAN tests measure achievement in these areas for all students.

A standardised test necessarily focuses on a specific aspect of performance – in the case of NAPLAN, literacy and numeracy skills – about which it is considered valuable to have standardised information. This does not imply that literacy and numeracy are the only valuable aspects of student achievement and ACARA also states publicly that NAPLAN testing complements but does not replace the information that teachers gather.