



AGPPA
Australian Government
Primary Principals
Association

Promoting and Advocating for Government Primary Schools

AGPPA calls for a full and independent review of NAPLAN

The Australian Government Primary Principals Association (AGPPA), representing over 5200 government schools with primary students, calls on Federal and State Governments to commit to a full and independent review of NAPLAN, and the MySchool website, which have now been in place for a decade. This must include an analysis of the impact on students and schools.

AGPPA President Ian Anderson said “Schools use a range of measures to assess important abilities, knowledge and behaviours of students, well beyond the narrow focus of literacy and numeracy testing covered in NAPLAN. Decisions regarding school effectiveness, student performance and resourcing levels must be based much more broadly than on NAPLAN data. Schools also focus on the development of creativity, critical thinking, application of problem solving skills and personal attributes which are needed to develop active and informed future citizens of Australia.”

Increasing numbers of school leaders, parents and academics are concerned about the unintended effects of NAPLAN over the ten years of its implementation. Such a review is now timely and necessary.

Mr. Anderson said “It is vitally important for teachers and school leaders to contribute to this review, to allow the profession to be heard as a central voice in the dialogue.”

AGPPA recognises the need for, and supports, authentic accountability of system, school and student performance. As an alternative to this high-stakes testing regime, AGPPA supports the national sample testing of students on a cyclical basis. A sample testing model removes the problems caused through the creation of league tables, which in recent years have been assembled by the media utilising the MySchool web site.

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