NAPLAN summary information: What’s been said – part 2

“…It strikes me as classic head in the sand or shoot the messenger behaviour to call for the abolition of NAPLAN. A sensible reaction … might be to look at what we’re doing wrong and change it…”

Rick Waiter, Lockleys Adelaide, The Advertiser
25 August 2014

“The latest NAPLAN results have given South Australia what it needs. Use this information to fix … standards in this state. Be proactive and not negative.”

Mick Bransden, Tennyson Adelaide, The Advertiser
25 August 2014

“…Teachers and parents should stop trying to influence the outcome of NAPLAN and concentrate on achieving successful completion of the syllabus…”

Jon facebook.com/Sydneymorningherald
24 August SMH

“…I thought it was a perfectly good question…”

Lynne facebook.com/sydneymorningherald SMH
24 August SMH

“…My children attend a school that has consistently achieved amongst the highest NAPLAN results and they do zero preparation for the test. The teachers and the parents are very casual about the tests and the kids seem to treat it in a similar way to any other school test, without much stress.

“Teachers and parents who claim that kids are suffering great stress about these basic tests should think about the tone and expectations they are setting beforehand. Don’t make a big deal of it and then the kids won’t either…”

Lou smh.com.au
24 August 2014

“…That is so Australian. Poor test results around the country – must be the test is too tough. An ambition-free continent, it seems. And then ‘some schools prepare for the test at the expense of the curriculum in order to achieve better marks’. 
“...The three Rs are not part of the curriculum? Some schools? I’d … expect all schools to teach to a test that is there to determine whether educational outcomes are being achieved. The tests rightly cover the very basics…”
Brenda smh.com.au
24 August 2014

NAPLAN allows the conversations to be had …

“… The school’s Year 3 students were the first to be taught explicit instruction in every year level since Prep so this, a concentration on consolidating their learning and high expectations, were behind the outstanding results.

“We’re constantly looking – we don’t stop looking at ways to make things even better than they are…”
Arthur Scippa, Principal, Goondi State School, The Courier Mail
23 August 2014

“… I note the need for a national measure of students' progress, which NAPLAN is providing…”
Dr Chris Burns, former NT education minister, Territory FM Darwin
22 August 2014

NAPLAN an effective tool helping to improve education of students

IN REPLY to Brenda Lines (Letters, 22 August):

NAPLAN does test what is taught in schools. It is aligned to state and territory agreed statements of learning for English and mathematics and reflects what is taught in school. NAPLAN will be explicitly aligned to the Australian curriculum from 2016. NAPLAN presents a national picture of how students are faring in literacy and numeracy. It provides data allowing conversations about the effectiveness of government programs and parents to identify a child’s strengths and development. Schools are using NAPLAN as one tool to improve student learning outcomes.
Robert Randall, CEO, Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority, The Courier Mail
23 August 2014

RE: NAPLAN results. “Home education is an important part of a child’s overall education. In general, a child who has been read a bedtime story will learn to read more readily than one who watches TV before going to bed…”

“…Shopping with a parent can encourage a child to understand numbers from an early age.
Parents are important educators but are not always aware of how much influence they could have…”

*Rosemary Jacob, Millner NT News*

23 August 2014

**NAPLAN allows the success stories to be assessed and analysed….**

“…Principal John Farrell refuses to let adversity be an excuse for failure.

The 127 students at his school, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, come almost entirely from Redfern’s ageing housing commission flats, 70 per cent are Indigenous and about 60 per cent have a family member in prison.

As a result of his leadership, the school now boasts impressive attendance and its NAPLAN results outshine those of schools with statistically similar students.

The Catholic primary school is one of six schools highlighted in a book by Maxine McKew as proof that remarkable progress can be made in the most difficult circumstances.

*ClassAct*, to be released next month, is a result of the work the journalist and former Labor MP has done over the past two years as a fellow at the Melbourne Graduate School of Education…”

*SMH*

23 August 2014

“…People are losing sight of the intention of these tests. Schools comparisons provide valuable insight which can be used to improve education overall…”

*Fred, The Conversation*

22 August 2014

“…Some sort of measurement is essential, otherwise there is no accountability, improvement or productivity gain…

“…Don’t stop the tests – rather align them to the desired outcomes…

“…These kids all face the mother of all exams at school leaving, so they need significant tests earlier in their school career to prepare them…”

*Anonymous, The Conversation*

22 August 2014

“…As an ex-teacher in schools, I would say we need testing that follows the curriculum and measures success…”

*Anonymous, The Conversation*

23 August 2014
“...The tests are intended to determine the literacy and numeracy skills of students at different points in their schooling...”

*Michael Feldman, 2SER FM Radio*

**23 August 2014**

“...We didn't stress any importance on the NAPLAN test in my house. Nine-year-old's first test. Just a simple classroom exam, no pressure just to do his best...

“Results home last night, overly proud, son has performed above the national average. It all comes down to the pressure that we as parents and community place on the importance. If you treat it like any other classroom exam, then the child won't stress out...”

*Christine, Ormeau, Couriermail.com.au*

**22 August 2014**