

My School and NAPLAN

Recent research findings by [market research company Colmar Brunton](#)

Source:

March 2015

Parents

- *I suspect children actually benefit from it. I can see the results improving.*
parent, state/Catholic primary school
- *What I have found with My School website, it's trying to inform and trying to also assist people in getting a better idea about ... what school, what they're doing and how they're funded. I think it's trying to be inclusive... I think it's proactive. It's a good site.*
parent, state/Catholic secondary school
- *I felt that the website is more like a door to all educational information, actual information on schools. So many different things about education all in one place.*
parent, state/Catholic secondary school
- *I think we have the right to know*
parent, state/Catholic secondary school
- *It's freedom of information, you can't hide it.*
parent, independent school
- *You're seeing exactly what's going on in that particular school* Parent.
parent, state/Catholic school
- *Well, the information is published. It's on the net for all to see. Perhaps in the past it was in policy folders in the office which you could ask to read which as a parent you could do. It's all open to you there.*
parent, independent school
- *I like to check the progress of the primary school and it's interesting to see the changes. You can check how its tracking compared to comparative schools.*
parent, state/Catholic primary school
- *I think it drives discipline around education in the schools and that's really at the end of the day what it's all about; helping your children.*
parent, state/Catholic primary school

Principals

- *Well I think NAPLAN was a wakeup call for Queensland state schools. We needed it. I think as a system we were looking inwardly at our own state. And I know people in the system were aware that results were going backwards. I think bringing it out as a public accountability for our system, we didn't really like it, but we all have done something about it... I think it was a wakeup call. Queensland needed to be public.*
state/Catholic primary school

Partners and stakeholders

- *It has probably given them an opportunity to be more accountable and probably increase transparency because we do push that the data provides an opportunity for parents to go and talk to the school about what's happening, so that helps to increase transparency.*
government school sector representative
 - *We recognise the potential values that publication of school results can have from the point of view of transparency and if one of the aims of establishing My School was to ensure that schools were not hiding their results or withholding their results from the community then My School has achieved that.*
executive director, Catholic education commission
 - *The major benefits is that there is now a fairly good contextual bit of data about schools that we can see how the schools are moving forward and seeing the value add to what they have been doing over the years hoping that the schools use the data for forward planning and for school improvement and that's what we have been encouraging the schools to do and hoping that parents will see the positive in their school that come from that so some of the contextual data.*
government school sector representative
 - *But I think that as the site continues to mature and be refined and I think too as we continue to refine the way we utilise the data that is captured there I think there is a more positive mindset that has come into play around it.*
government school sector representative.
 - *I think that again the data as far as it is collected I think is ok. It's relates to a small proportion of a child's education.*
independent school sector representative
-

May 2013

NAPLAN Key Group Research

- Parents and teachers had positive views of NAPLAN and benefits to both schools and students were recognised.
 - Anxiety related to NAPLAN testing tended to be greatest among first time parents, however this diminished significantly with experience of NAPLAN testing.
 - Parents understood that NAPLAN provides essential information for the government to help assess and monitor numeracy and literacy standards as well as improve education and resource allocation.
 - Parents saw NAPLAN tests as providing a measure of a child's achievement relative to their age cohort and could assist with identifying areas for improvement for individual children as well as identifying areas requiring improvement in teaching methods.
 - Parents of children in Year 3 perceived NAPLAN provided children with an opportunity to learn exam skills that would benefit them in later school years.
 - Teachers felt NAPLAN could assist schools to identify areas for improvement, and develop and measure the effectiveness of new strategies.
 - Teachers felt NAPLAN provided another layer of information about a student's academic profile and encouraged greater focus on numeracy and literacy among parents and teachers.
-

November 2012

Focus groups with parents and school leaders

- Parents felt *My School* was a useful tool for some who wished to become better informed about a school.
 - Parents and school leaders perceived the factsheets and supporting materials were informative and a positive addition, aiding understanding of the purpose and possible use of the website.
-

August 2010

Post-*My School* launch: focus groups with parents and teachers, and online survey of parents

- Parents felt the *My School* website was of most use to those who were in the decision making process regarding schooling and education for their children.
 - Parents perceived the *My School* website to be one among many tools in the toolbox for parents when it comes to making decisions about their children's schooling.
 - Parents felt that the school profile – in particular the school facts side bar – contained among the most useful information, while the NAPLAN results were found to be less useful due to difficulty for some in interpreting NAPLAN data.
-

September 2009

Pre-*My School* launch: focus group with parents

- Parents were generally positive to the idea of the launch of the *My School* website as an additional tool to source information about their children's school or prospective schools.
-