

Primary principals argue for NAPLAN to be removed from *My School*

The Australian Primary Principals Association (APPA) today released a paper arguing for NAPLAN data to be removed from the *My School* website. In drawing attention to the problems that arise from the data's publication on *My School*, the discussion paper highlights that NAPLAN has shifted into a high stakes environment with significant negative consequences for students, teachers and school communities.

APPA President, Norm Hart, reinforced that NAPLAN has a meaningful role in school transparency and accountability measures and that principals value the clear and independent data it provides.

"Schools should report their NAPLAN results, together with national and their own state or territory results, to students, parents and the community. However, the evidence is clear that when a school's results are published on *My School*, NAPLAN too often becomes the key source of information about a school and this is particularly so when league tables result," Mr Hart said.

"The path taken in comparing schools has led to a stifling of creative and effective teaching, a narrowing of the curriculum and less teaching of those skills and literacies needed in the modern world. The resulting collateral damage to students is something we cannot afford."

Speaking on behalf of Australian primary school principals, Mr Hart said,

"Our primary school children deserve an education where the bar is high, where high level skills are achieved and where creativity and innovation are not lost. The purpose of this discussion paper is to lift the debate about Australian schooling above simple and harmful comparisons of schools."

A copy of the Discussion Paper is available on the APPA website – www.appa.asn.au.

APPA is the professional association representing 7,200 primary school leaders in Government, Catholic and Independent schools across Australia.

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