

Media release NAPLAN testing

NAPLAN testing begins this week across Territory schools, with this process again creating much angst in our school communities. Teachers are reporting that a significant amount of teaching time is being spent on preparing our children for this testing and that this is detracting from their core curriculum teaching and learning time in classrooms.

Christopher Bantick, *The Age*, 7/5/2012, comments “NAPLAN tests were not intended to be the basis of defacto league tables, but that is precisely what they have become”.

National Save Our Schools (SOS) Convenor, Trevor Cobold, states that “NAPLAN is having pernicious effects on Australian education”. Further in a recent media release from SOS it was stated that “parents, teachers and principals all say that the whole focus of Term 1 and the beginning of Term 2 is now on preparing and practising for NAPLAN. Many schools have timetable practice test through Term 1 which are ramped up in Term 2. A Victorian Year 3 teacher said of the constant practice that “I am over it and the kids are over it”. Several parents said that schools had encouraged them to engage private tutors for their children”.

Christopher Bantick, reporter with *The Age*, 7/5/2012, states that “The reality is that NAPLAN has morphed into a school status contest. Parents, teachers and students are affected by the pressure to do well. The prize on offer: bragging rights”.

Barry McGaw, reporter with *The Age*, 7/5/2012 argues that “the best way for students to develop literacy and numeracy is through a rich curriculum. These skills are developed everywhere that students read, write and work with quantitative information – in history, geography, the arts, science and not only in English and Mathematics.”

Further, Trevor Cobold (SOS, media release, *NAPLAN is a Cancer Eating Away at Education*, 13/5/2012) states “the harm being done to education by NAPLAN is entirely due to the publication of school results on the My School website”.

COGSO President Mark Brustolin encourages parents with concerns around NAPLAN testing in the NT to be aware that the testing is not compulsory and that parents have the right to withdraw their students from NAPLAN.

COGSO does not support the use of NAPLAN data for publication on the Myschools website and the inherent creation of “league tables”, nor does it support the apparent detraction from schools core business of teaching and learning.

Mark Brustolin
President COGSO
Ph: 89993255 or 0417 865386