



Ryde-Macquarie Teachers Association

C/- NSW Teachers Federation, Locked Bag No: 3010, Darlinghurst, NSW, 1300
Ph:(02) 9217 2470 Fax: (02) 9217 2470 Email: mail@nswtf.org.au Website:
www.nswtf.org.au



To our Queensland Teachers' Union comrades,

We are heartened and encouraged to hear of your reaffirmed commitment to ban NAPLAN in the face of the QLD Department of Education seeking an injunction on your action.

NAPLAN has been a tool used to drive competition between students, teachers, and schools. The creative experience of learning is being replaced by a crass drive for students to perform better than their peers, for teachers to provide a greater "lift" of scores, and for schools to attract the best-performing students. Our collectivity and collegiality are being undermined by such standardised tests.

The focus on NAPLAN results and individuals' performance is a distraction from the inequities in our education system. Commonwealth funding for independent schools has increased alongside state government cuts to public schools. The federal government funding model will see every private school fully-funded by 2023 whereas very few government schools will ever be fully-funded. It is outrageous to hold schools accountable for NAPLAN results when this type of systemic inequality exists.

NAPLAN is narrowing the learning in our classrooms. Teachers' time is being wasted on teaching to the test and implementing practice tests. Professional development days are spent on analysing the data and strategies to improve scores. What is needed is more time for planning and teaching engaging lessons that challenge students and deepen their understanding and knowledge.

NAPLAN is a stake in our education system, and as teachers and unionists we must stand united against it and other standardised tests. We applaud your ban on NAPLAN and take great encouragement from it. The same action is needed in NSW and across Australia, and we are tasked with building that solidarity - a task that seems far closer to being achieved when we see the courage and commitment of the QTU members.

In solidarity,

for The Ryde-Macquarie Association of the NSW Teachers Federation