



Media release

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For immediate release

The politics of beating our teachers with the NAPLAN stick

Queensland teachers are often criticised when NAPLAN results are released so it is timely that FPQ will instead acknowledge Queensland teachers on 14 October by announcing an Honour Roll of innovators and pioneers of sexuality education in Queensland schools.

It's been 21 years since sexuality education was formally introduced into Queensland schools yet the fantastic work being done is rarely recognised and never counted said Cecelia Gore, FPQ's Director of Education Services.

The release of results from the NAPLAN tests has again highlighted the politics associated with which lessons count in schools. Inevitably, because they are the areas being tested, when the NAPLAN results are released, the focus is exclusively upon reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy. Children are not machines and placing all value on these areas while omitting consideration of other important parts of a child's education is unhelpful and misleading.

While being of pleasing significance to those fortunate parents with children who are both excelling academically and who are also 'decent' kids, the NAPLAN tests fail to consider other elements of a child's education that are just as vital to the shaping and development of good, decent, informed citizens.

History has shown repeatedly that children need more than academic skills throughout their education years to become informed, decent adults. Not all children will become great academic minds but the efforts and commitment of many Queensland teachers in providing a well rounded education that includes life, health and social skills to our children are often overlooked.

Building respectful relationships, learning decision making skills, forming a sense of ethics and skills in finding information to make healthy choices are further significant outcomes for children and young people who have access to effective sexuality education programs in schools commented Ms Gore.

-ENDS-

For further information or to discuss FPQ's position on this topic and the Honour Roll awards, please contact: Claire Simpson on 07 3250 0222 or csimpson@fpq.com.au.