

# Media Release

John Kaye MLC

Greens NSW MP

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## Threat of league tables drives teachers to test ban

Teachers have been forced to consider a ban on administering the year 3, 5, 7 and 9 literacy and numeracy tests, according to Greens NSW MP John Kaye. (<http://tinyurl.com/smh100119>)

Dr Kaye said: "Teachers have a right to exercise their professional consciences.

"The publication of school-by-school results next week will inevitably lead to league tables that will stigmatise schools, force teachers to teach to the tests and mislead parents.

"Federal Education Minister Julia Gillard is misusing the test. NAPLAN was never intended to provide comparisons between students, let alone schools.

"Teachers have been left with little choice but to act.

"Imposing a ban on administering the tests is the only way educators can protect their students, schools and communities from the damage that league tables would do.

"Julia Gillard and her state colleagues have refused to listen education experts, teachers and parents.

"They have ignored the lessons from the UK and the USA where so-called 'name-and-shame' education policies have undermined educational outcomes and devastated schools serving low-income communities.

"NSW Education Minister Verity Firth could have put an end to this last year by refusing to hand over the state's results.

"Instead she buckled under to pressure from Julia Gillard and put the state's schools and students at risk.

"Teachers will today weigh up the educational benefits of the NAPLAN test against the damage that league tables will do by humiliating schools that serve disadvantaged communities, undermining learning outcomes in all schools and reducing the quality of information available to parents and students.

"Australia is fortunate that it has a teacher workforce that is prepared to save this nation from the mistakes that are crippling school education in England and the USA," Dr Kaye said.

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