

Research Forum

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Making local meaning from national assessment data *Lessons from Western Australia*

Professor Helen Wildy, Dean of Education
The University of Western Australia

Tuesday, 13 October 2009, 2.30pm – 4.30pm
Conference Room, Floor 12, 30 Mary Street, Brisbane

At this forum, Professor Helen Wildy will present her research and experiences from working with Western Australian school sectors and school leaders in understanding and applying data obtained from national testing programs in a meaningful way.

The first part of this forum will provide background to the research, commencing in 2000 with Commonwealth funding for what has become known as the Data Club for the Western Australian Department of Education and Training, through to the current data activity funded by the Western Australian Catholic Education Office and the Association for Independent Schools of WA.

The second part of Professor Wildy's presentation will focus on the representations of NAPLAN data used in 2008 and also the ways in which the 2001–2007 Western Australian Literacy and Numeracy Assessment data were displayed. Examples of data uses made by classroom teachers, curriculum leaders, school principals, and education systems for both accountability and school improvement will be discussed.

The forum will conclude by raising some questions about applications of these kinds of analyses for collaborative reporting on Smarter Schools National Partnerships with the Australian Government.



Helen Wildy is Winthrop Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Education at The University of Western Australia. Formerly a Mathematics teacher she taught in government and independent schools in Western Australia and Victoria. She currently conducts research and supervises doctoral and Masters students in a range of leadership and school improvement topics. She has been chief investigator or co-chief investigator in research projects worth more than \$5m since 2000. Her academic papers are published widely in refereed national and international journals.

For the past nine years, Professor Wildy has worked with school sectors in Western Australia on projects to present national assessment data in formats that are accessible to school leaders and teachers. She is Director of Performance Indicators for Primary Schools (PIPS) Australia, a literacy and numeracy assessment program for students entering school, used by over 800 schools in all Australian states and territories.

Please RSVP your attendance by Friday, 9 October 2009 to Sajida.Khan@deta.qld.gov.au
Refreshments will be available following the presentation.