

Two more SA teachers accused of NAPLAN misconduct

Test cheat claims grow

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EDUCATION REPORTER

THE integrity of national literacy and numeracy testing has been questioned, with experts branding it "superficial" and calling for its scrapping after two more claims of misconduct involving supervising teachers in South Australia.

While educators and parents continued to back the value of the NAPLAN tests, they said further investigation was needed to ensure there was no more cheating.

A teacher at Elizabeth Vale Primary School has denied accusations



of inappropriately assisting students in the language conventions test last Tuesday.

And a Year 5 class at Rostrevor College in Woodforde was allegedly given advance notice of the writing test topic. Both teachers have been stood down pending investigations.

Last week, a Year 7 St Leonard's Primary School teacher allegedly altered students' test answers.

Students of affected classes in all three schools have the opportunity to resit an equivalent test next week.

Flinders University literacy expert Dr Barbara Nielsen said it was "just a matter of time" before this type of cheating occurred because of the high stakes now involved.

The results of the tests taken by Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students form the basis of comparison on the Federal Government's school performance website, My School.

"I can't see that the tests are ever

going to have any useful, educational purpose. I think they're not essential," Dr Nielsen said.

University of South Australia literacy researcher Associate Professor Susan Hill said the tests were "very superficial". Education Minister Jay Weatherill has ruled out a wider investigation, maintaining his faith in the "professional integrity" of teachers.

"The overwhelming majority of our teachers take their professional responsibilities seriously," he said.

Opposition education spokesman David Pisoni demanded a statewide investigation into the conduct of

teachers delivering the tests. "The minister can't stand in front of parents and guarantee these are isolated incidents," Mr Pisoni said.

South Australian Association of State School Organisations director David Knuckey said parents were wondering "how big is this going to get"?

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