

# Testimonials

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Below are some actual testimonials taken from customer feedback forms:

## **SCHOOLS:**

*Natural Ability has impressed me as a very professional organisation who are very willing to be flexible and support the needs of our school and our students. Their testing tools and reporting materials have impressed as having a high degree of validity.*

*Ian McKay – Principal – Kings College*

*Thanks for the program, the overwhelming response from the College community has been positive since we completed the testing earlier in the year. I will be in touch soon to arrange dates for next year's testing.*

*Daniel Kelly – Career Counselor – Emmanuel Anglican*

*Overall the system delivers all and more than it claims and represents incredible value for money on a per student basis. Our principal was so impressed he has already commissioned the testing of his leadership team.*

*Andrew Philpot – Career Counselor – Kings College*

*I have received some wonderful feedback from both students and parents following your time here – so much so that the parents are wondering if they could access it for their other children.*

*Kerry Turner – Career Counselor – Moriah College*

*I know All Saints has made a considerable investment in this process so I just wanted to pass on my experience and say that I believe it is money well spent. I hope the school continues to offer this program so that my daughter gets to undertake the Highlands Ability Battery and receive her very detailed report.*

*Deb Taylor – Parent – All Saints Anglican*

*By the end of the session the staff had a much clearer understanding of their own strengths and idiosyncrasies and a deeper understanding and appreciation of why some of us act so differently when it comes to working together. All of the staff were amazed at the thoroughness and accuracy of the individual reports. This was a truly enlightening experience.*

*Gerry Moloney – Principal – Toogoolawa Schools*

*Six years ago, I introduced the Highlands Ability Battery School Testing Program to Southside Christian School (SCS) after experiencing it at Ben Lippen School for eight years. The program is an integral part of our school and a key instrument for our guidance counselor to use when working with our students in planning their future decisions.*

*I highly recommend the Highlands Ability Battery School Testing Program to any high school interested in providing students with clear and insightful guidance.*

*Stephen Reel – School Superintendent, Southside Christian School*

### **STUDENTS & THEIR PARENTS:**

*A lot of "light bulb" moments for me as her mother. Even though you think you know your child so well, I felt I learnt so much more about Lauren from the report and your consultation and a sense of calm and acceptance descended upon me on Tuesday night! So thank you for that. (Just wish we had done this earlier)*

*Kerrie, mother of year 12 student*

*I thought it was a great experience and I gained insight on what my abilities were, especially to do with the visual arts. I never really thought that I may have had abilities in that area so it was a surprise to me. I also found it was very helpful in guiding my choices for my electives.*

*Beau, year 9 student*

*"We spent over \$100,000 on our son's education and when he graduated he did not have a clue what he was going to do or even what he was really good at. The small investment in the natural abilities testing made all of the difference. After the feedback session he felt great about who he was, and had a clear direction of where he was going."*

*Parents – High School Graduate*

*A small price to pay for a lifetime of personal insight and self knowledge. Our 16 year old son is now more motivated and has more direction. He was pleased to discover some specific abilities that will enable him find a satisfying future. The testing process was also able to isolate some areas that might not suit his abilities or his personal style and this is equally important to his future. As parents we now understand him more and we respect his unique abilities and personal style. Linking potential careers to tested abilities is inspiring and exciting. The advice about making the most of his abilities and personal style has changed his perspective and enabled him to make positive changes which will allow him to reach his potential. This process takes a lot of pressure from a student because it provides them with essential information about themselves. This self knowledge increases confidence and makes a happy successful future seem much more real.*

*Marg – Parent of Year 11 Student*

*Our son indicated he had an interest in engineering, but he was also good at a lot of other things so we were not sure what was best. After completing the Natural Abilities Specialist process it confirmed his abilities for engineering and helped us to focus on a plan going forward.*

*Jo, Parent of year 11 student*

*We always knew our son was intelligent, but school was a struggle for him and really affected his self esteem. The test results identified where his unique abilities were, especially in creativity and design, and also his best learning channels. He felt really good about himself after the feedback, had a great last term in year 12, and is doing well in his first term of University.*

*–Ed, parent of High School Student*

*It was invaluable in helping us to recognise what is important in helping our daughter to select subjects for her senior years of schooling.*

*Kath, Parent of year 9 student*

*As a parent of the student that took the test I can't recommend it highly enough. When your child is confused and frustrated with what direction their life should take, a test like this helps them see clearly what their strengths are and in doing so helps point them in the right direction. My daughter now has knowledge and support from another source she trusts, so feels more confident in her decision.*

*Tracey, mother of year 10 student*

*I found the process to be thorough and professional in its approach. Beau and I felt comfortable and receptive to the whole experience. It was pleasing to see that Beau absorbed the information and was more than willing to discuss the outcomes with us at home. He has now decided to alter his electives for next year with confidence.*

*Robyn, mother of year 9 student*

*I can't believe how accurate this test was to identify who I was and how I thought. It was very liberating because I always felt I had certain talents and abilities, but did not know what they meant or how to express them. I now have a clear direction for uni, and several career options.*

*- Al, 18 year old student*

*It was amazing how accurate the program was. I have learned how to study better, as well as figure out why I think about things the way I do and how I am as a person.*

*Jessica, Year 12 Student*

*I thought the process was very helpful in guiding me down a successful career path. I learned many more of my natural abilities that I was previously unaware of.*

*Nick, Year 12 Student*

*This process gave me a greater insight into the way my son ticks, and that that he is OK. New ideas for the future and for supporting him. A confidence booster for my son. Thank you*

*Julie, mother of year 10 student*

*I gained confirmation and knowledge about myself and it has guided me to make better decisions on my learning and career paths and has broadened my view on my personal abilities.*

*Sam, Year 11 Student*

*I was very impressed with process, not just questions but all the interactive exercises. I felt that it was more accurate. Everyone benefited from the experience.*

*Melanie, mother of High School Graduate*

*For me to tell you all I learned from this program would take a lifetime. I learned how I learn best, how to deal with stressful situations, what my natural abilities are, and what career choices my abilities are geared towards. At the same time, they emphasize that career planning, career decisions, and career changes should not be based entirely on these results.*

*Jonas, 17-year-old high school student*

*The insight that our daughter gained and that we now understand was very helpful. It confirmed some of our thoughts and it gave her a unique perspective that she would otherwise not have received through any other medium or testing until well into her career & maybe not even then.*

*Cecil, father of Year 11 student*

*I thought that this process was excellent because I gained knowledge about what my natural abilities really are.*

*Sara, year 9 student*

*Very thorough and informative. Gave me more insights into my capabilities and will be invaluable in helping me decide on a career path.*

*Danielle, year 10 student*

*I really enjoy taking the test. It taught me a lot about myself and others.*

*Taylor, 19 year old*

*This process "lifted the lid" on some personality compartmentalisation that had previously been applied and made us look more clearly at the children as individuals and helped them greatly in understanding themselves as interactive community members and individuals.*

*Ngaire, mother of 16 & 18 year old girls*

*I really enjoyed the process. I feel Jake has a sense of certainty in what he is about as a person. He has gained confidence, direction and a sense of purpose. For me personally it has given me a bigger picture around how people operate and I have gained more understanding for people in general. Thank you Robert.*

*Kate, mother of year 10 student*

*Bon and I found it very interesting, it confirmed our thoughts on her choice of career path and it was amazing to learn how her "natural" abilities define her whole self, from the way she learns to how she handles stress. I thought it was very worthwhile and will recommend it to others, particularly those with children entering year 11.*

*Judy, mother of year 12 student*

*An excellent process, the balance of theory, examples, lack of judgmental aspects was very good. The examples of how abilities can be integrated into unsuspecting areas were most valuable.*

*Leigh, father of 19 year old son*

*This test has helped me so much. I am more confident with my course selection for the next two years and I have a better understanding of my personal style. The test has also helped me with my career direction.*

*Bec, year 10 student*

*I found this process eye opening. It was great looking inside myself and realising why and how I thought and did things. It was amazingly accurate.*

*Bridget, Year 10 student*

*Helps to understand ones personality and how to make the most out of our strengths and also our weaknesses Also the process gives one an understanding of where to direct future endeavors that may lead to being more fulfilled and content later in life. Furthermore it provides a reference point we can use if we wander away from our natural abilities to help us refocus on being successful at that task or journey in the future*

*David, father of year 11 student*

*I thought the whole process was wonderful it opened up us and the kids to their strengths and has provided them with tools to improve their approach to study and how to understand the importance of those facets of themselves they need to take into consideration when choosing their subjects and courses later on and ultimately their career path along with working environment. It has given me a sense of peace in knowing we haven't just pushed them into areas we thought right but allowed them to take ownership of their own choices but at the same time knowing the reasoning behind those choices. Thank you I have loved the whole process and appreciate the time and effort you have given to help our boys.*

*Leesa, mother of year 10 student*

*I thought the process was really interesting. It both validated and revealed things about myself and taught me how to use both my strengths and weaknesses to my advantage.*

*Alexandra, Year 12 graduate*

*It gave me a huge realisation about where my talents are and what path I should be taking to get the most out of life by following my natural abilities.*

*Luke, Year 12 graduate*

*It was very informative and I would recommend it to anyone. It is a helpful process to review where you may wish to head career and lifestyle wise. You have an 'ah-ha' type experience where things you have noticed over time fit together and are explained with some credible basis.*

*Andrew, father of year 11 & 12 students*

*I was amazed at how accurate the results were and hope that it gives her the confidence in her abilities to really make her mark in the world.*

*Suzi, mother of year 12 student*

*The process for James and I was very enriching and helped to target in on James ability to focus and take on his academic challenges at present. James has learned what his specific skills are for this purpose and will now be able to SEE these skills in a more focused way to achieve the best results for himself academically and in life*

*David, father of year 9 student!*

**Follow up on two sisters tested 5 years ago (Year 10 and Year 12):**

The girls are both doing really well. Kaitlyn did her undergrad (at USYD) in immune-biology and a masters in health communication (all the time having in mind her natural abilities testing specialist thinker and communicator) and this year has started working at the Dept of Health on the graduate development program and loves it. During her Masters she interned with a Breast Cancer Charity, Pink Hope, for a year translating medical info into layman terms for their communications. She is currently working on health promotion campaigns within the Health Dept - **all perfect career/ natural ability marriages! So she is one happy individual.**

Hayley did her undergrad with majors in government and international relations and is currently working through a Master of International Relations (at USYD). She is interning with Baptist World Aid Charity. Hayley plans to finish her Masters next July and head to Beijing Language University for 6 months to brush up her Mandarin skills. Next year she will be applying to DFAT in Australia and the NZ equivalent with diplomacy as her career goal. **She is also very happy and content and just loves her field of study.**

*Whenever there a decisions to be made about direction - out comes the Natural Ability testing results to help guide/remind the girls of their core requirements. So big thanks to you guys!*

*Ngaire – mother – e-mail follow-up*