

# Testimonials

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Below are some actual testimonials taken from customer feedback forms:

## **STUDENTS & 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*

*Holly found this program helped cement her career choice decision. She felt her strengths played a dominant role in most parts of her career choice. Holly's weaknesses also gave her the opportunity to grow in the area that required attention and also gave her the understanding of her character. This was an unbelievable experience that will help Holly understand her ability through life.*

*Parent - year 10 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*

*It was great to identify Ruby's natural learning abilities, we intend to leverage these to assist her through year 12 and university. We also found the report to be extremely accurate and has provided direction on career direction.*

*Michael – parent of year 11 student*

*I think it is very powerful to help a child understand what they are innately good at and what they will 'naturally' enjoy. In a world with so many options, providing this sort of guidance to them, even as deep and complex as it is, can prove to be very helpful for them when choosing subjects and more broadly, looking at career direction. At their age they don't really know what they 'like' but with this information they can maybe look for what they like in a targeted way. As a parent, aside from being able to help with all of the above, this was affirming as much of it aligned with what we observe out of school and maps quite closely to personality traits, behaviours and some of the observed learning outcomes. Very interesting and helpful from a school AND home perspective, thanks. Very grateful for Hillcrest to provide this wonderful service - My wife and I are also thinking of completing this to help us in our own careers.*

*Lisa – parent Year 9 student*

*I was very happy with the Natural Ability program and I think it is an important part of every student's education. It is very important for growth in self awareness to understand your interests and your strengths, especially when considering subjects for Years 10-12 and future careers. I was also very pleased that the natural Ability program looked at learning styles. Year 9 is the perfect time to present this program. My older daughter, who is now finished school, missed out on the opportunity to discover her Natural Abilities. It took her a few years after school to find her path and I think she would have benefited from this program too. I am happy with the way in which a variety of career paths are suggested according to the different interests and abilities that are inherent in each student, so that they are not "pigeon-holed" into a specific career which can be the downfall of these types of programs.*

*Michell – parent Year 9 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 process it confirmed his abilities for engineering and helped us to focus on a plan going forward.*

*Jo, Parent of year 11 student*

*I loved the assessment as it confirmed things for me:*

*The assessment came up with a music gifting which I had put aside before thinking it would be too much for me to take in. I started guitar about a year ago and love it.*

*It also help to explain my learning style:*

*I am not good with the reading and writing but a visual learner. I took these findings to Mr Fesuk who when others have something to read he gives me a video option. We actually did a test and I got 3/10 when asked questions after a reading and 8/10 after a video presentation.*

*I could have been labelled not so smart, but it is not that, it is just that my learning style is different.*

*Jacob, Year 10 student*

*Just wanted to say that in all of Alise's schooling at Hillcrest the most valuable input has been the natural abilities test. It has been the best \$180 I have ever spent and invested. It is the most brilliant information a child can get to help steer them towards a career that is going to be enjoyable and suitable for their learning styles. Also self-awareness on how they study and learn best. Unfortunately schools don't cater to all learning styles but at least children can be proactive to then themselves put in the extra effort required to achieve the results they are looking for through self-awareness. Can't thank the school enough for bringing that into Hillcrest and would encourage any parents that haven't done this to do so.*

*Jane, mother of year 10 student*

*The process was very simple and seamless. Skype session is very good. Robert got to learn more about himself. He is thinking about things which he wouldn't have otherwise. Thank you for all your help with the program*

*Laura – Parent Year 12 Student*

*It was good to find out what I know of my child was reflected in his report, personality and ability. Kids do not always believe in their parents opinion but it changes when an independent person gives them the same info through a reputable testing program*

*Erica – parent Year 10 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*

*We found this program so helpful. Many things were uncovered we had no idea about and the guidance and learning information is so beneficial.*

*Craig – parent 15 year-old 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.*

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

*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*

*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*

*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 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*

*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*

*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!*

*We can whole heartedly say that one of the best things Cullam did for himself last year was to sit the Natural Abilities Testing. The testing itself was a rather lengthy process, but well worth every minute of it. The detailed comprehensive feedback he received has helped him to clearly define his unique natural abilities over a spectrum of different categories. As Cullam's parents, we know him well, yet we were staggered and excited by the accuracy of the results over a wide range of abilities. There are a lot of characteristics unique to Cullam that we as his parents have subconsciously acknowledged, but to have them so accurately confirmed through this battery of tests was astounding.*

*This testing does not only give you helpful information on your teenager's strengths, but it also gives an in depth interpretation explaining how to apply this when identifying the best way they learn, why certain areas of study incorporate their natural strengths (and will therefore be easier and more enjoyable for them) and why certain career options and environments will most likely be a 'better individual fit' for them than others. We have used this information in recent discussions with Cullam around his subject choices and possible future study options. He has taken the information on board and is using it to help with his decision making. As parents we are so grateful to have had the benefit of him doing this testing and highly recommend it to everyone.*

*Kathryn, mother of year 10 student*

*Whenever there is a decision 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!*

*Nan – mother two high school students*

## **ADULTS:**

*This is by far the most liberating experience of my life. The depth, knowledge and insight I have gained about myself is priceless. The report was spot on and I lost count of how many 'ah ah' moments I had. I highly recommend this test for anyone no matter the age - you are never too old to discover the 'real' you. The whole experience exceeded my expectations.*

*Kristy, adult in transition*

*A great process to go through! It highlighted traits that I hadn't even addressed before. This has helped me to work around them and with them to minimise any negative effects they were having. I am considering a career change and the information I gained through this process has given me a lot more courage to do so.*

*Andre, 32 year old horticulturist*

*UP until recently, I felt that I was at a complete dead end in my life. I had a degree behind me; however I was unable to make any real progress in starting and developing a career which I could be truly excited about. My current job was the final straw. I needed to do something, anything, which would provide me with some information about myself that I could use to get back on track. The Natural Ability program has provided me with that information. I found the program revealed a number of things about my-self, some which I knew, and others which I had known at some earlier time and had for some reason ignored. Using this information, I have been able to understand why I have felt such dissatisfaction in my working life to date. I feel that I have discovered something important about myself and I am quite excited about it. All I need now is the courage to trust what I have inside me and pursue what I rightly deserve!*

*Clint, 29 year old electronics engineer*

*For the first time in my life I feel seen, really seen and understood and it is beautifully overwhelming.*

**FROM EVERY PART OF MY HEART I THANK YOU.**

*Nicole, 35 year old adult in transition*

*Thank you Rob for your wonderful support recently. As a result of my own direct experience with your services, I found the process extremely worthwhile. I genuinely felt that Natural Abilities embraces the individual as a whole and with complete mindfulness, to help and support people like myself, to mold and construct our lives through better work choices and relationships, congruent with personal values and goals. The Highlands Ability Battery, as a tool is excellent and provided me with a much deeper and unique insight into myself. Coupled with the insightful counseling and genuine guidance I received, I have been able to marry together the insights and inner learnings, with my practical world and find my unique place in it. Confident in my identity and talents, I am now able to consciously and deliberately espouse the best path for me.*

*Josie, 40 year old corporate trainer*

*I am still amazed at how accurately the test has identified my traits and abilities! Before doing the test I was so unsure about my career path and I had been thinking a lot about making serious changes. Having done the test and speaking to Tracy, I now see that I am on the right path and I feel confident and encouraged to keep doing what I am doing. I think this process has also helped me understand the way that others in my office work, and I think this will help me not to get too stressed out in certain situations as I can appreciate that everyone works and behaves very differently.*

*Emma, 29 year old, geophysicist*

*I found it interesting to see things I already knew about myself - quantified. Also other areas that were off my radar, that I hadn't considered strengths, were brought to my attention. The testing was valid and it is a good program for career guidance.*

*Brendan, 34 year old film & TV editor*

*Slowly gaining momentum on the coding side of things, a weird thing I'm finding is that as I'm getting more active in coding or getting the new job I can feel other parts of my personality start to wake up too. It's almost like my whole system is waking up from hibernation if that makes any sense.*

*Neil, 29 year old - adult in transition*

*I have taken MBTI, Clifton Strengths Finder, DISC and MAPP and none of them come close to comparing to this assessment and experience. The fact that it is objective and really challenges your abilities is the difference maker, so much more accurate and on point. The clarity I have now moving forward is awesome. I can see where I am going and what I need to do to get there.*

*Brittany, 26 – adult in transition*

*My results explained a lot about the dissatisfaction that I have felt throughout my career and highlighted the type of work/ hobby that I need to spend time on to satisfy me. It was validating to have some of my natural abilities confirmed- as I was not confident enough in some of them to actively pursue them. Now I can!*

*Ruth, 46 - Doctor*

*As an adult, the programme makes you aware of strengths and areas to improve and use with purpose. Reflection on the report and then the follow up guidance of the counsellor was excellent and clarified with more depth the use of the report.*

*Liz, 39 year old MBA Graduate*

*I was looking for assistance in a career change. What this process has done for me is open my eyes not only to my abilities and skills but also to the possibilities that can follow from them. I was frustrated with a lack of direction and not being able to see any direction. Now i have many to explore. It still seems daunting to wade through these but now there is added excitement.*

*Darren, 35 – adult in transition*

*From personal experience, this skill-based assessment is head and shoulders above Myers-Briggs, DiSC, FARO-B and others that ask you to respond to questions and pick the answer – I really value the many dimensions that it explores, and have found it to be an excellent tool for career planning.*

*Graduate student in Organizational Psychology*

*Promotes an understanding of one's abilities and conversely one's weaknesses. A positive spin is the overwhelming end result with a holistic view and analysis of results.*

*David, 40, business owner*

*The feedback process was amazing, it made everything so clear. I felt like you were my fortune teller, and I wanted you to stay longer and longer to tell me more about myself. I have learned so much.*

*Di, 38 year old teacher*

*I was surprised as to the validity of the testing process and how accurate it can portray an individual and their abilities. It certainly has helped to give direction and reassurance that you do have unique abilities and where they can be applied.*

*Stuart, 25 Uni Graduate*



*I found the process very helpful in helping to clarify my natural abilities. I feel more confident that I can work more consciously with what comes more naturally for me. I believe this will be of benefit when it comes to connecting and communicating with others. Through the consultation the results of my test were put into perspective. This gave me a much better understanding of myself and also dispelled any negative impressions I had about my lower scores in the driving abilities section of the test.*

*Julie, 50 Adult in transition*

*Taking the Natural Ability test was an eye opening and liberating experience. The results confirmed why I've been unhappy in my career. I wish I had taken this test in high school. It definitely would help one select courses and a career that were a better fit and help identify the best study methods.*

*I would highly recommend taking this test to anyone who is unsure of what to study, deciding if they should pursue a career in the field they've studied or at a cross roads in their career. The sooner the better.*

*Michael, 45 IT senior executive*

*This process has been enlightening and very helpful in shaping my thoughts for my next steps. It's as if my brain has been shaken up and now the pieces need to fall into place.*

*Nick, 35 Banking Executive*

*I gained insights about myself that I wouldn't be able or it would take too long to find out. Also, it explained somehow why I succeed in some roles and why I didn't in others. Most important I learned what I don't want to be doing from now on.*

*Pedro, 30 software programmer*

*Yes it showed me why I was doing what I was doing with my career and further more allowed me to see why things frustrated and stressed me as well as why I enjoy certain aspects of my current work and not others. This has been very useful to help me understand how I might be more successful in future by focusing on strengths and recruiting others for weaknesses*

*Brendan, 38, Corporate Executive*

#### **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*

*I wholeheartedly recommend the ‘Future Discovery Programme’ initiated by the Natural Ability team as an important adjunct to a liberal education. The information it provides will help pupils to make better decisions about their futures and in certain cases will actually transform their outlook.*

*Patrick Wallas – headmaster – All Saints Anglican School*

*Thank you both for a wonderful learning experience this afternoon. All the staff were really impressed and spoke later about how much they still can learn about each other. (Leadership Staff Workshop)*

*Gerry Maloney – Headmaster – Toogoolawa School, QLD*

*I am writing to formally thank you, Mr Davis and Hillcrest for organizing the Natural Abilities team to come and assess the yr 10 cohort of 2017.*

*It is such a wonderful tool to guide us and our son, in his pursuit of a suitable career and the information provided on how he learns is invaluable. It has been great too, to see how enthusiastically he has embraced and engaged in the testing and then the report.*

*Thank you so much once again. It's yet another reason that makes us proud to be Hillcrest parents.*

*Year 10 Parent - Hillcrest*

*I am so impressed with this testing and with the comprehensiveness of the report. Absolutely outstanding, and I don't say that often. I think the information and insight it has given us is absolutely invaluable and I am so grateful to you and the school for sourcing this product and introducing it. Although I am now a staff member, too, as a parent, I just want to let you know how grateful I am for this!*

*Parent – Year 10 – St Peters Lutheran College*

**CORPORATE:**

*Yesterday was fabulous. Ralph has changed the way he is working and is now a little less stuck. Thanks a million. Today we have made a huge leap forward.*

*Greg, Executive Director  
State wide non-profit (leadership team)*

*I found it most helpful personally and your comments in particular. Since then, the feedback has illuminated my typical ways of reacting and relating.*

*Ralph, Senior Executive*

*State wide non-profit (leadership team)*

*We have a better understanding of our individual abilities and talents, but also the strengths of others on the team. It helped us to see what some individuals bring to the team that others don't. I think it has helped us to use the strength of our diversity in styles and worktypes. It has helped us all personally, but also helped our leadership skills and how we work together in team building.*

*HR vice-president, major company*

*This was absolutely one of the most amazing processes I have ever gone through. It has taught me how to be a more effective leader and to understand my strengths and weaknesses.*

*Corporate Executive*