

MEDIA RELEASE

Embargoed until 0100hrs 8 March 2017

MY SCHOOL UPDATED FOR 2017

Today, the *My School* website has been updated, providing up-to-date, readily accessible information about all of Australia's schools.

For educators, the website allows for the sharing of information about school achievements, with the aim of supporting and driving improvement across the nation.

For parents, *My School* provides a wealth of valuable information to help make informed decisions about their child's education.

Acknowledging that NAPLAN tests only a sample of what students learn during the year, and that schools are more than their NAPLAN results, *My School* provides a range of information on schools, including content provided by a school on their mission and values.

"*My School* is a very popular website, with 1.4 million user sessions last year," said ACARA's CEO, Robert Randall. "It continues to be a valuable resource because it provides a reliable source of information about Australian schools over a period of time – from literacy and numeracy achievement through to student attendance data and a school's finances."

"The 'gain' pages on *My School* help identify where significant improvement has been achieved and enable the reasons for such improvement to be shared with others. We all need to do more to celebrate and promote where schools have made a significant improvement to student learning, and then work to expect and support improvement across more schools," said Mr Randall.

"The focus of *My School* is on enabling fair comparisons between schools – to drive improvement. ACARA does not support simplistic league tables or ranking of schools."

My School contains quality data that allow for comparison of results between schools with students from similar socio-educational backgrounds, using a special index (ICSEA) developed by ACARA.

The index of community socio-educational advantage (ICSEA) is the level of educational advantage of a school's students, calculated using information about parents' occupation and education, school geographical location and the proportion of Indigenous students a school caters for. A school's ICSEA value represents the average educational advantage of the school's students.

The 2017 *My School* update contains:

- 2016 NAPLAN results for schools
- 2016 school profile and population data
- 2015 school financial information, including capital expenditure and sources of funding.

Visit the *My School* website at www.myschool.edu.au

Media enquiries: 0414 063 872

//ENDS