

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### SCHOOL LEAGUE TABLING BY MEDIA: A MISUSE OF NAPLAN DATA

ACARA is very disappointed at the publication by a major news organisation today of crude league tables that rank schools using average NAPLAN scores.

The publication of these tables is in contravention to the terms of use of the [My School website](#).

Importantly for parents, these articles do not provide the information they claim to provide; that is, information on the performance of schools. This is because performance cannot be measured just by looking at the average score of the students at the school. These crude comparisons take no account of the levels of socio-educational advantage of the school community, and do not look at the level of student progress achieved from the last time students were assessed and the most recent results.

All teachers and schools work hard for their students. However, between 70 and 80 per cent of a school's level of achievement is determined by factors outside the school's direct control or influence.

As a result, these tables promote unfair and misleading comparisons that have the potential to undermine the quality of school education.

Parents wanting information on how their school is performing in NAPLAN should not rely on league tables in these articles, but instead visit the *My School* website and review the progress graphs for their school. The amount of progress, seen in the context of the socio-educational background of the students, indicates to parents if the school is performing well.

For a complete view of how their school is supporting their child's education, parents should talk to their school's principal and teachers.

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