

MEDIA RELEASE

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MY SCHOOL 2020 – A FAIRER FOCUS ON STUDENT PROGRESS

The *My School* website has today been updated with the most recent data available on Australia's schools, and presents NAPLAN data in a fresh way.

Following last year's review into NAPLAN data reporting on *My School*, education ministers agreed in December to overhaul the way NAPLAN data is presented on the website. The changes improve the quality and usefulness of the information. There are fewer displays of NAPLAN data but there is a stronger focus on student progress in a way that is fair and easy to understand, rather than on comparisons with statistically similar schools.

"These changes are being made to help parents and school authorities focus more on how a school is performing in terms of student progress i.e. improving literacy and numeracy outcomes over the two years since the previous NAPLAN tests, and less on 'school versus school' comparisons that only take account of overall levels of achievement," said ACARA CEO, David de Carvalho.

The changes have been subject to extensive consultation with stakeholders, statistical experts and parent focus groups. The changes respond to stakeholder concerns that the way *My School* presented NAPLAN data was undermining the benefits of the program.

"It is important to remember that NAPLAN only provides a snapshot in time of achievement levels in two of the seven general capabilities of the Australian Curriculum. It does not measure overall school quality.

"The changes we are announcing today will hopefully go some way to helping everyone keep NAPLAN in perspective," said Mr de Carvalho.

The *My School* website provides information that supports national transparency and accountability of Australia's schools through the publication of nationally consistent school-level data. It complements other reporting measures aimed at ensuring schools and school systems are accountable to parents and to the broader community.

"*My School* information helps inform the discussions parents have with teachers and supports them in making informed decisions about their child's education. A child's teacher will have the best insight into educational progress," said Mr de Carvalho.

The 2020 *My School* update contains:

- 2019 NAPLAN results for schools
- 2019 school profile and population data
- 2018 school financial information, including capital expenditure and sources of funding.

Visit www.myschool.edu.au

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Media line: 0414 063 872, email: media.contact@acara.edu.au

Third party attributable quotes regarding *My School*:

“ACSSO applauds ACARA for listening to the feedback from parents to continue enhancements to the *My School* website. Parents have been asking for a simpler site with focus on student progress instead of direct rankings, and this change promises to deliver. ACSSO welcomes our ongoing partnership with ACARA to provide the best outcomes for Australian parents.”

Andrew Bidwell, President, Australian Council of State School Organisations Ltd

“The new *My School* website is a big improvement. It now provides more of the kind of information parents want to know, with a new layout, graphics and language that are much more parent friendly. The focus on how much students have improved, especially the new comparisons to similar students, also gives parents a simple way to see how well their child's school is going.”

Jenni Rickard, President, Australian Parents Council

“Catholic Secondary Principals Australia (CaSPA) has welcomed the review, consultations and changes to NAPLAN and *My School*. CaSPA supports the renewed focus on student progress and improving educational outcomes for all students.”

Phil Lewis, Executive Officer, Catholic Secondary Principals Australia

“CSPA believes that the increased focus on student progress over time provides a good conversation starter for parents with their child's teacher and heightens the opportunity for parent engagement in their child's learning.”

Karl Rodrigues, Chair, Catholic School Parents Australia

“The *My School* website is a good place for parents to start when gathering information about where they will educate their children. But it is no substitute for a personal visit to a school, where parents have the opportunity to talk with the principal, teachers and students to help determine whether the school is the best choice to meet the unique needs and interests of their child.”

Beth Blackwood, CEO, Association of Heads of Independent Schools of Australia

“ASPA does not support the use of NAPLAN data to compare and rank schools. A focus on student performance growth from one test to another, through the revised *My School* website, can instead provide users with an understanding of students’ literacy and numeracy achievement and an appreciation of the value our profession adds.”

Andrew Pierpoint, President, Australian Secondary Principals' Association (ASPA)