

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***My School* Website Launched Today**

The *My School* website (www.myschool.edu.au) was launched today. The data on the site were collected and published by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA).

ACARA Board Chair, Professor Barry McGaw AO, said “The *My School* website has been developed in close consultation with schools and school jurisdictions right across Australia. Its role is to provide high quality and nationally comparable data on Australian schools.

“We expect the data will benefit parents, schools, governments and the wider community to better understand school performance,” he said.

My School provides information on almost 10,000 Australian schools that can be searched by name, location and sector. It enables visitors to:

- Access consistent information about all schools;
- Compare the average performance of students in a school on national literacy and numeracy tests (NAPLAN) in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 with the average performance of students in statistically similar schools across Australia and nationally; and
- Search for schools within a particular area.

Fair and meaningful comparisons have been made possible by making use of the Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA) to group schools together that are statistically similar in terms of their student intakes. It was developed specifically for the *My School* website.

The website displays each school’s ICSEA value. An index of 1000 is average. Nearly 70% of schools have values between 900 and 1100. The lowest ICSEA values are about 500 and the highest about 1300. A low number indicates that the students at the school generally have a less educationally advantaged background than students at schools with a higher ICSEA value. For each school the spread in student background is indicated.

The website also displays performance on each of the NAPLAN tests. “Overall there are about 45% of schools with literacy and numeracy test results that are close to those of other statistically similar schools, and there are about 9% that are either substantially above or substantially below their other statistically similar schools.

“The spread of performance on literacy and numeracy tests increases progressively from Year 3 to Year 9 and there are fewer differences between schools that are substantial”, Professor McGaw said.

Visit the website today at www.myschool.edu.au

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For interviews with ACARA Chair, Barry McGaw AO or CEO Peter Hill contact:
Teneille Rennick on 02 9928 1517 or 0412 584 679 or mediacontact@acara.edu.au

About ACARA

The Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) is an independent authority responsible for:

- A national curriculum from Kindergarten to Year 12 in specified learning areas.
- A national assessment program aligned to the national curriculum that measures students' progress.
- A national data collection and reporting program.

Visit the ACARA website here www.acara.edu.au or view the ACARA Act.