

MEDIA RELEASE

5 March 2014

RELEASE OF MY SCHOOL 2014

My School 2014 has been released today (Wednesday 5 March 2014) by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA).

The 2014 update of data on the *My School* website (www.myschool.edu.au) provides the opportunity for educators, parents and the wider community to view updated information on all schools across Australia, and to make comparisons between them.

My School presents a detailed profile on all schools including results from the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN).

ACARA's Chair, Professor Barry McGaw, believes *My School* provides an opportunity for everyone to learn more about Australian schools and for Australian schools to learn more from each other.

'The 2014 update of *My School* builds on the past four years of sharing information with the Australian public about the performance and resources of more than 9500 schools throughout the country,' said Professor McGaw.

A new feature of this year's *My School* website is a mapping function, which allows a visitor to the site to view the school's location as well as other local schools on the same map.

ACARA has also improved the calculation of the Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA).

'Over the last year, ACARA has worked closely with its partners and independent experts to make ICSEA school values more representative and stable over time,' said Professor McGaw.

ICSEA is calculated using family background information.

'Research shows that student educational outcomes are closely linked to family background factors, such as parent education level and occupation,' added Professor McGaw.

'The value of ICSEA is that it enables fair comparisons to be made among schools with students from similar levels of socio-educational advantage.

'Differences among those schools are due to what the schools do and not the families from which the students come,' he said.

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