



19 March 2009



The Hon. Julia Gillard MP, Minister for Education
Mr Andrew Barr MLA, Minister for Education and Training, ACT
The Hon. Verity Firth MP, Minister for Education and Training, NSW
The Hon. Bronwyn Pike MLA, Minister for Education, Victoria
The Hon. Rod Welford MP, Minister for Education, Training and the Arts, QLD
The Hon. Dr Jane Lomax-Smith MP, Minister for Education, SA
The Hon. Dr Elizabeth Constable MLA, Minister for Education, WA
The Hon. David Bartlett MP, Minister for Education and Skills, Tasmania
The Hon. Paul Henderson MLA, Minister for Education and Training, NT

Dear Minister



We write at a crucial moment for Australian Education.



As peak Professional Associations representing educators across the continent we write to strongly urge you to take legislative action prohibiting the creation and publication of league tables flowing from the collection of student and school performance data.



Whilst we are appreciative of MCEETYA's desire to put in place a structure and process to allow for a longitudinal analysis of school and system performance, on behalf of our students and school communities the profession requires assurances that the misuse of this data will not occur.



The damage to curriculum provision, students and entire school communities resulting from league tables is well-documented in international research and evidence.

Describing "the ethical principles underpinning the publication of reports" your own "Principles and Protocols for the Collection and National Reporting of MCEETYA Key Performance Measures for Schooling in Australia" July 2008, highlights, among other things, the importance of "the avoidance of harm to members of the community: this could occur where the privacy of individuals would be compromised or where the reputation of an institution or group of people would be damaged through the publication of misleading information or stereotyping."

It also notes that "no information that permits the identification of individual schools or students should be reported publicly without explicit permission."

The Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians states that "governments will not themselves devise simplistic league tables or rankings". Legislative action is now required to prohibit their creation and publication by third parties.

On behalf of our students and school communities we await your response.



Please mark correspondence for the attention of Angelo Gavrielatos and Andrew Blair, C/- angelo@aeufederal.org.au and ablair@vassp.org.au,

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Yours sincerely



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Federal President
Australian Education Union

Andrew Blair
President
Australian Secondary Principals Association

On behalf of:

Marian Strong, Hon. Secretary, Art Education Australia Inc.
Barbara Stone, National Chair, The Assoc. of Heads of Independent Schools of Australia
Roselyne Anderson, National Co-convener, Association of Women Educators
Dr Judy Anderson, President, Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers
Mark Howie, President, Australian Association for the Teaching of English Inc
Jenny Lewis, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Council for Educational Leaders
Angelo Gavrielatos, Federal President, Australian Education Union
Dr Jan Turbill, President, Australian Literacy Educators' Association
Rob Moore, President, Australian School Library Association
Peter Turnbull, President, Australian Science Teachers Association
Andrew Blair, President, Australian Secondary Principals Association
Dr Jennifer Rosevear, National President, Australian Society for Music Education
Garry Taylor, President, Business Educators Australasia Inc
Vin Feeney, President, Catholic Secondary Principals Australia
Chris Watt, Federal Secretary, Independent Education Union of Australia