



SCSEEC

Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood

MEDIA RELEASE

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LATEST *MY SCHOOL* WEBSITE GOES LIVE

The Chair of the Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood, the Hon. Dr. Constable MLA, today announced that the latest version of the *My School* website officially went live at 2 pm EST, offering Australians a comprehensive picture of the performance and progress of schools across the nation.

“*My School* brings a range of information about schools together in one place”, said Minister Constable.

“Parents, schools, governments and the wider community have a useful resource at their fingertips that allows them to see how their schools are performing relative to schools serving students from similar backgrounds.”

This year’s version of the website contains information about school performance on national assessment tests as well as information about school funding, and student progress.

“Visitors to the site this year can also see important information about student participation in Vocational Education and Training programs in schools. This complements information about senior secondary school outcomes, including data on post-school destinations”, said Minister Constable.

This year’s site also includes refined Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA) values for schools that provide a fairer way to make comparisons between schools serving student populations with similar sets of background characteristics.

“ICSEA values have previously provided a sound and robust means to compare similar schools. This year they are more precise as a result of an increased use of information collected directly from parents.

Research shows that there is a strong relationship between parental background and students’ academic performance, and the ICSEA values that result from this analysis provide a fairer way to make comparisons between schools”, said Minister Constable.

Finance data released this year builds on what was published in 2011, both in relation to improved comparability and the addition of another year of information.

The collection of this information has followed a lengthy, rigorous process.

“ACARA worked with independent auditor Deloitte to ensure that the finance data on the *My School* website is correct and comparable across Australia’s different schools and systems.”

“By publishing information about the resources available to schools, via a variety of sources, users of *My School* can get a picture of the cost of educating students”, said Minister Constable.

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