

OPEN LETTER TO NEWS CORP TO STOP PUBLISHING CRUDE LEAGUE TABLES THAT HARM OUR COMMUNITIES

4 December 2025

We the undersigned are deeply concerned and dismayed to see News Corp Australia's media organisations again this year publishing crude "league tables" of our Australian schools.

It is unfair and misleading to create such tables ranking schools purely by the NAPLAN scores without considering the context of each school, including the level of socio-educational advantage (SEA) of the student cohorts in each school and other key factors.

Our teachers, students, parents and community deserve better from a major source of news in our country. Our teachers work hard every day in schools across our nation. The publication of these tables does harm and disrespects families and the people who teach our children, undermining the teaching profession when we are desperately trying to value them.

The ranking of schools in this way is not in the public interest. In fact it causes harm to students, schools and teachers.

Crude league tables do not support improvement in schooling because they do not acknowledge schools that are achieving progress in the education of their students, regardless of their SEA.

This is not about hiding information as News Corp might claim. All the latest information about each and every school across the country is available to all Australians through ACARA's MySchool website – myschool.edu.au

Data provided as information can celebrate improvement in a fairer way that considers the individual circumstances of a school, as well as to better identify areas for renewed or continued focus.

We note the Terms of Use of the My School website (<https://myschool.edu.au/terms-of-use>) and draw your attention to your obligations, in particular, the 'Restrictions on use of this site and content'.

We call on the editors and leadership of News Corp Australia to cease the publication of these crude and damaging league tables.

Instead, we invite News Corp and all media outlets to use your significant platforms to report on the 'student progress' data now available on the MySchool website. Highlighting schools that achieve great student growth, regardless of their starting point, would be a genuine public service that truly celebrates educational success. We are ready to assist your journalists in understanding and interpreting this richer, fairer data.

Signed by

Stephen Gniel – Chief Executive Officer, ACARA

Simon Vaughan – President – ACT Principals' Association

Dianne Giblin AM – Chief Executive Officer, Australian Council of State School Organisations (ACSSO)

Correna Haythorpe – Federal President, AEU

Angela Burroughs – President, AEU ACT

Michelle Ayers – President, AEU NT

Jennie-Marie Gorman – President, AEU SA

David Genford – President, AEU TAS

Justin Mullaly – President, AEU VIC

Phil Schultz – President, Australian Catholic Primary Principals' Association

Angela Falkenberg – President, Australian Primary Principals' Association (APPA)

Andy Mison – President, Australian Secondary Principals' Association (ASPA)

Matt Johnson – CEO/President, Australian Special Education Principals' Association

Chris Duncan – Chief Executive Officer, Association of Heads of Independent Schools of Australia

Stephen Kennaugh – President, Catholic Secondary Principals Association (CaSPA)

Gemma Quinn – Chief Executive Officer, Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations of NSW (P&C Federation NSW)

Brad Hayes – Federal Secretary, Independent Education Union of Australia (IEUA)

Carol Matthews – Branch Secretary, Independent Education Union NSWACT

Terry Burke – Branch Secretary, Independent Education Union QLD and NT Branch

Tim Oosterbaan – Branch Secretary, Independent Education Union SA Branch

David Brear – Branch Secretary, Independent Education Union VICTAS

Rebecca Collopy – Branch Secretary, Independent Education Union WA

Martin Lubrano – President, Independent Primary School Heads of Australia

Dyonne Anderson – CEO, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Principals' Association (NATSIPA)

Carolyn Edwards – President, Northern Territory Principals' Association (NTPA)

Michael Burgess – President, NSW Primary Principals Association (NSWPPA)

Denise Lofts – President NSW Secondary Principals' Council (NSWSPC)

Henry Rajendra – President, NSW Teachers Federation

Pat Murphy – President, Queensland Association of State School Principals (QASSP)

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Tobias O'Connor – President, South Australian Primary Principals Association (SAPPA)

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Matt Jarman – President, SSTUWA

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Colin Axup – President, Victorian Association of State Secondary School Principals (VASSP)

Andrew Dalgleish – President, Victorian Principals Association

Melissa Gillett – President, Western Australian Secondary School Executives Association (WASSEA)

Chris Bonnor – Education writer, former NSW principal and former President of the NSW Secondary Principals' Council

Adrian Piccoli – Former NSW Minister for Education

