

24 March 2009

The Hon Bronwyn Pike MP  
Minister for Education  
Level 1, 2 Treasury Place  
East Melbourne VIC 3002

Dear Minister

We write at a crucial moment for Australian Education.

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.

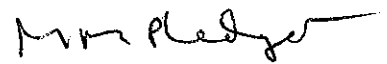
Yours sincerely



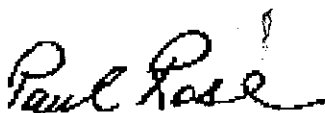
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