



FEDERATION OF PARENTS AND CITIZENS' ASSOCIATIONS OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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MEDIA RELEASE

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## My School website: Will it portray accurate information about schools?

The Federation of Parents and Citizens' Associations of NSW is awaiting, with some concern, the official launch of the *My School* website on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

Promoted as allowing parents to view information about their child's school and also statistically similar schools, on viewing of the website there were concerns about what is actually being presented. To find out more about *My School* a set of resources are available to download. Upon opening the powerpoint presentation, parents are welcomed to search for information about schools in their community rather than being encouraged to view the data from their own school.

President Dianne Giblin expressed her concern by commenting: '*My School* is not really promoting parents to celebrate the achievement of their child's school. Even as the Federal Government is selling the notion of families viewing their child's school in comparison to statistically similar schools across the nation, the resources merely promote the search of profiles of 10,000 schools across Australia'

Contained in the *My School* Fact Sheet are statements including that pages will provide a list of 20 schools located nearest to the school selected to be viewed and that viewers can identify and learn about high performing schools.

'This suggests that the website is intended to make available the information to parents but to also provide the opportunity for individuals to compare and contrast achievements of schools and not necessarily those which are statistically similar.

It does not offer information on the full range of rich and rewarding experiences that children have each day in their learning environments' says Ms Giblin.

It would appear that the *My School* website is essentially a league table in its own right. Despite Deputy Prime Minister Gillard's assertions that she does not support simplistic league tables this is exactly what her department has managed to produce.

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