



## MySchool

“Almost predictably a number in the media have taken simplistic snapshots from the MySchool website to continue their political campaign against some schools”, said Independent Education Union of Australia Federal Secretary Chris Watt.

Theresa Howe, Secretary

“The personalised, one on one school comparison that is the feature of online media reporting today highlights they very real concerns that the union has had about the use of the MySchool data.

“Despite protestations by the Education Ministers that the website is intended to be used to share best practice and support schools needing assistance, it was inevitable that there would be an opportunistic approach by some in the media where ‘each school is pitted against 60 others nationwide’ as one media outlet has described it on their website.

“It doesn’t matter whether the targets of the simplistic reporting are advantaged schools or disadvantaged schools, high fee schools or low fee schools. This is not helpful for schools or their communities.”

It is 2 years since your union surveyed members regarding NAPLAN. While members were concerned at the amount of public funds directed to national testing, worried about effects such as curriculum distortion, and were unconvinced by arguments that funding would be directed to struggling schools, some members found the data useful. In any case members took a pragmatic view that this was a political agenda that would not be affected by teachers banning the implementation of the tests.

Will we continue to be so sanguine if it is suggested that teachers might be paid on the basis of improvements from the previous round of testing?

### From the New York Times – Obama’s Reform to No Child Left Behind

The administration has already made its mark on education through Race to the Top, [a federal grant program](#) in which 40 states are competing for \$4 billion in education money included in last year’s federal stimulus bill. In his [State of the Union address](#), Mr. Obama [hailed the results so far](#) of that competition, which has persuaded states from Rhode Island to California to make changes in their education laws. **States that prohibit the use of test scores in teacher evaluations, for example, are not eligible for the funds.** The competition has also encouraged states to open the door to more [charter schools](#), which receive public money but are run by independent groups.

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