

## New Features of *My School* in 2011

*My School* has undergone a number of changes since its first release at the end of January 2010. These changes reflect decisions by ministers for education and feedback from stakeholder and consumer groups. In particular, advice was provided by the *My School* Working Party, comprising teacher, principal, and parent representatives, plus others with relevant expertise.

*My School 2.0* provides significantly more information about Australia's almost 10,000 schools. This information can be searched on the website using the school's location, sector or name.

The key changes are summarised below.

### School Profile

The school profile page includes an expanded commentary on the school context. It also provides information about the school including school type, enrolments, attendance rates, staff numbers and information about the student population such as the numbers of girls and boys and the percentage of students from a language background other than English. Additional and more nationally consistent information on senior secondary outcomes is also presented.

NAPLAN results have been moved to separate pages to make room for this extra information while a set of icons at the bottom of the screen provide easy access to the rest of the site.

### School Finances

ACARA has worked closely with the Australian Government, State and Territory jurisdictions, systems and sectors to collect school financial data to be displayed on the *My School* website. The 2009 recurrent income and capital expenditure are displayed for each school broken down by source of funding.

This is the first time that such information has been available within Australia.

### NAPLAN Results

With three years of NAPLAN data now available, *My School 2.0* provides an opportunity to focus on trends in school performance over time. Performance in each test domain (Reading, Writing, Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar, and Numeracy) is presented using graphical displays that enable comparisons with schools serving students from statistically similar backgrounds and with all schools. These displays also make clear both the magnitude of differences and the margins of error around estimates.

### Student Gain

*My School 2.0* offers the first opportunity to present student progress information for students who undertook NAPLAN in both 2008 and 2010. It is important to note that for some schools, such as high schools which start in Year 8, it is not possible to represent student gain.

This information provides an understanding of how the gain made by a school is related to its students' starting level of performance in 2008, and whether the school was performing at higher or lower levels than statistically similar schools. The gain made by students in each school is displayed by averaging the 2008 and 2010 results for the following cohorts:

- Year 5 students who also sat NAPLAN in the same school in Year 3
- Year 7 students who also sat NAPLAN in the same school in Year 5
- Year 9 students who also sat NAPLAN in the same school in Year 7

For each cohort, you can compare the school's performance with that of other schools serving students from statistically similar backgrounds.

## Schools with Students from Statistically Similar Backgrounds

On *My School* 2.0 the alphabetical listing of schools is replaced with a graphical display to compare the performance of a school with schools serving students from similar backgrounds. Coloured symbols are used to indicate the magnitude of differences and there are tools for quickly navigating to other schools of interest.

## ICSEA

At the request of education ministers, ACARA has developed a method of calculating each school's value on the Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA) that makes use of direct student-level information, where this is available, rather than indirect Australian Bureau of Statistics census collection district data.

The new ICSEA formula has been strengthened by the inclusion of a factor reflecting the proportion of students at a school from a language background other than English. Other factors included in the previous ICSEA formula such as the remoteness of a school and proportion of Indigenous students, have been retained.

## Enhanced security features

Users accessing the updated website are required to accept a terms and conditions of use agreement. This is to protect the integrity of the website and guard against misuse of the information.

An additional measure is implemented to deter automated data-collection tools from causing access problems for individuals wishing to view the website.