

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 2009-10**

Outcome 2

DEEWR Question No. EW443_10

Senator Hanson-Young provided in writing.

Question

Safeguards against the publication of school league tables

What protections are being put in place to stop the NAPLAN data being taken and used to create and publish crude league tables which rank schools?

Answer

Education Ministers have agreed to *Principles and Protocols for Reporting on Schooling in Australia* that will support meaningful and comparable reporting of school data and the responsible use of this information. These protocols include the protection of individual student privacy, not publishing comparative data without contextual information and the publication of error margins, caveats and explanatory notes to ensure accurate interpretation. The Protocols state that “ACARA will be supported in providing strong and active management of information it provides to prevent the identification of individual students and to promote the meaningful use of data by third parties. ACARA, will work actively with the media to explain the information published and how to properly interpret it, and will take steps to counter unfair or inaccurate reporting.”

The Protocols can be accessed on the MCEECDYA website
[www.mceecdya.edu.au/verve/resources/Principles and Protocols 2009.pdf](http://www.mceecdya.edu.au/verve/resources/Principles_and_Protocols_2009.pdf)