THE HON PETER GARRETT MP
Minister for School Education, Early Childhood and Youth

MEDIA RELEASE

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My School 2.0 to be launched in the New Year

My School 2.0 will be launched in the New Year after further validation and consultation with Independent schools regarding their financial information.

When My School was launched earlier this year, it revolutionised the way we talk about schools in Australia with more than 4.1 million visits to the site since it was launched.

My School 2.0 will include a range of new features, including data about growth in student achievement and data about school finances.

This is the first time that financial information about schools will be available for the whole community to see and in some cases, this is the first time schools have had access to this information.

In preparation for the launch and to ensure that the information is robust and comparable, ACARA commissioned a detailed validation process which is being undertaken by leading accounting firm Deloitte.

As part of this process, schools have had the opportunity to review their information as it will appear on My School 2.0 and Deloitte has also been reviewing the methodology for reporting school financial information.

Deloitte has identified circumstances which could lead to a misstatement of recurrent income for Independent schools and has recommended to ACARA that further validation and consultation takes place to address this.

It is essential that My School 2.0 delivers consistent financial information that allows Australian parents, teachers and the community to make fair comparisons between schools.

Based on Deloitte’s advice, ACARA has recommended that more time is needed to complete the validation and consultation process.

I have subsequently asked ACARA to ensure it fully consults with Independent schools so they have the opportunity to review and understand the data.
The validation process was designed to identify issues such as these and to ensure that any issues could be resolved.

“There is a ground swell of support in the community for the My School website and people expect the information to be thoroughly checked before the site goes live so they can make fair and reasonable comparisons between schools,” said Mr Garrett.

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