



Greg Piper MP

Member for Lake Macquarie



MEDIA RELEASE

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School League Tables Fail the Test

Greg Piper, Member for Lake Macquarie, is pleased that a Bill to allow simplistic comparisons of schools was defeated in Parliament this week.

Mr Piper was one of many Lower House MPs who spoke against the Bill which was subsequently voted down in the Upper House.

According to Mr Piper, the most appropriate use for comparisons of schools is for the government to help schools reach suitable standards.

“There should be no way for anyone to publish simplistic comparisons that reflect badly on individual schools,” Mr Piper said. “Simple league tables would prompt parents to abandon their local school, make it difficult to attract good teachers and brand some school leavers as having a lower worth than others.”

According to Mr Piper, the Minister for Education told Parliament that the only real answer to league tables is to encourage debate and provide information.

“I reject the idea of ‘cleaning-up’ after the information has been mis-used,” said Mr Piper. “There’s no way to stretch such debate to a fair conclusion and children in some schools will pay the price.”

“It’s wrong for some schools to be seen as winners and some as losers, when what we want is the best opportunity for all students,” he added.

Mr Piper’s speech can be found at:

<http://bulletin/prod/parlment/hansart.nsf/8bd91bc90780f150ca256e630010302c/0328fd5676660c38ca25762c007f4823!OpenDocument>