

From:
Mr Brett Bertalli

If schools are named and shamed by the production of school league tables, we will struggle to attract qualified teachers to those isolated rural towns who are listed on the bottom of those tables. More often than not, our disadvantaged kids, i.e. low socio-economic, Aboriginal & non English speaking kids will in fact perform at a lower rate than those in more well to do families and schools. The schools that these kids attend often struggle to attract qualified teachers. Naming and shaming those schools will only further disadvantage those schools, communities and children. Wilcannia Central School is one of those schools. Wilcannia is a very low socio-economic status community with 99% Aboriginal people. Wilcannia has one secondary English teacher and one secondary Math teacher. Both teachers are easily identifiable from the My Schools Website as they are the only teachers teaching students English and Math in years 7 & 9. The English teacher asked me; "Who will replace me!

when I transfer, knowing they will be identified, named and shamed for the poor performance of their students" "who in their right mind would teach in this community if we are to be judged on the performance of students who have so many variables affecting their education that are outside of our control" The Math teacher is on leave and has been all year. In the past five years, Wilcannia CS has had a qualified Math teacher for one year only. In 2006, 7 & 8 the Visual Arts teacher taught Math, untrained and unqualified. How can we expect the students of disadvantaged communities to perform well in NAPLAN if state governments cannot provide qualified teachers. If schools such as Wilcannia Central School are named and shamed in league tables....we won't see another quality, qualified Math or English teacher there again. Our disadvantaged kids become more disadvantaged with the publication of league tables.