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Teachers condemn 'league tables'

The Australian Education Union today condemned the **publication of 'league tables'** in Tasmania.

AEU Federal President, Angelo Gavrielatos said the refusal on the part of governments to take legislative action prohibiting the creation and publication of league tables made them inevitable.

"Premier David Bartlett's comment today that comparing schools is 'mischievous' is disingenuous and exposes the hollow nature of previous statements in opposition to simplistic league tables made by the federal and all state and territory education ministers.

"The Australian Education Union has repeatedly expressed concern about the publication of league tables. What we have witnessed today confirms our worst fears.

"In addition, the NSW Government has back-flipped on its commitment to opposing league tables, admitting today that it may overturn legislation it introduced in 1997 preventing the publication of school league tables.

"We are calling on all ministers of education to remove uncertainty and outline what action will be taken to stop the creation and publication of league tables.

"The damage to curriculum provision, students and entire school communities caused by league tables is well-documented in international research and evidence.

"Research also shows that league tables create greater inequality and increased segregation as a result of shifts in student enrolment patterns," Mr Gavrielatos said.

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