



NSW TEACHERS FEDERATION

TEACHERS FEDERATION HOUSE 23-33 MARY STREET SURRY HILLS NSW 2010

Please address all correspondence to
THE GENERAL SECRETARY

Ref: 167 /2006/MOH/Is
Date: 23 February 2006

**To: ALL FED REPS AND PRINCIPALS
ALL SCHOOLS**

(please bring this to the attention of all Federation members)

re: STUDENT REPORT CARDS

Dear Colleagues

A DET memorandum about this issue was sent to schools on 9 February 2006.

Federation advises that schools should continue to use their own reporting system and not comply with the DET's memorandum of 9 February 2006. Many of the reporting requirements being foisted on schools are professionally and educationally unacceptable.

The Federation has grave concerns about the philosophical underpinnings of the proposed new report cards. In particular, the Federation opposes:

- the Federal Government's imposition of simplistic and regressive student reporting requirements as a pre-condition for continued federal funding
- the mandated use of an A to E grading system which falsely implies normative assessment, has the potential to institute "failure" for some students and is contrary to the stage approach of assessment
- the potential for greatly increased workload on staff during the planning stage and when implementing the new report card.

The Federation supports a standard framework for reporting clear information to parents. That framework would then be a guide to schools. An acceptable framework has yet to be developed.

Federation will continue negotiations on this matter with the State Government, the DET, P & C and principal groups.

If an acceptable framework is developed it will require consultation, teacher professional development, computer software and appropriate resourcing of public schools. Federation wants the result to be a high quality and successful system.

Not only is the DET's reporting proposal flawed, but the current timeline is unacceptable. The DET's reporting proposal is not in the interest of all students and must be opposed.

Yours sincerely

**Barry Johnson
General Secretary**

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