Verity Firth to attend meeting of Education Ministers

Newly appointed Minister for Education and Training Verity Firth will meet with Deputy Prime Minister Julia Gillard and Education Ministers from other States and Territories in Melbourne today.

Ms Firth said transparency in school reporting would be a key agenda item for the meeting.

“NSW supports providing clear and comprehensive information to parents about their child’s performance and the performance of their school,” Ms Firth said.

“In fact, NSW was one of the first States to introduce annual school reports, including comparisons over time and against schools in similar circumstances.

“The key challenge is not just deciding what performance information we need to gather and report on, but how we make sure it is used productively.

“My focus will be on making sure performance information is used to improve the quality of education delivered to every child in every classroom.”

Following the meeting, results will be released from the first ever National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy.

“In May this year, all Australian students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 sat tests in literacy and numeracy,” Ms Firth said.

“I am confident that the national results will bear testament to the exceptional dedication of our teachers and the quality of our curriculum in NSW.

“Our education system depends on teachers having the skills, support and enthusiasm to challenge and encourage every child in every class to do their best.

“That’s why recognising and rewarding teachers through all stages of their careers must be a national priority.”

Ms Firth said she was delighted to be joining a cohort of Labor Ministers who shared a deep-seated commitment to high quality, accessible education.

“I will be working with the Rudd Government to ensure the Education Revolution delivers concrete improvements for our students and our teachers.”

Media contact: David Boyd 0404 944 550