

JUNE 2024 BUDGET ESTIMATES – ACARA’S OPENING STATEMENT

Thank you Chair.

I'd like to take a few minutes to update the Committee on work ACARA has delivered since our last Estimates appearance in February 2024, in line with our work plan as agreed to by all education ministers.

The Committee will be aware that NAPLAN 2024 was held in March. ACARA, working with our partners Education Services Australia and in jurisdictions, oversaw a record 4.48 million online tests successfully completed by more than 1.2 million students in 9,411 campuses and schools across Australia.

This collaboration with our partners meant it was a smooth and effective delivery of a large-scale and complex program.

Schools across Australia received preliminary results at the start of Term 2, which is 8 weeks earlier than in 2023 and a full school term earlier than 2022. This is the earliest ever in the history of NAPLAN.

Preliminary results include all domains except writing, which takes longer to mark. All writing tests have now been marked, and schools will begin receiving their full results, which include writing, from later this month.

Getting the results to schools sooner is a key benefit of having moved the assessment from May to March last year, as well as delivering the tests online.

The earlier results give teachers more time to consider their students' results alongside their own assessments, and then use them to inform their teaching and learning programs in the current school year.

Following further analysis of the results by ACARA, parents and carers will receive their child's Individual Student Report at the start of Term 3, which includes information around how their child has performed against the national average. ACARA is then expecting to publish the National Results in August 2024.

In April, we published 2 new chapters of the National Report on Schooling in Australia 2023. These chapters cover schools and schooling, student enrolment and retention.

This report is being progressively released, providing more timely commentary on schools' progress against nationally agreed policy initiatives as the data becomes available.

And just last week, we released the latest National Assessment Program Science Literacy report for 2023, which offers a wealth of information on the knowledge, understandings and abilities of Year 6 and Year 10 students within a science literacy context.

The report provides valuable insights for policymakers in education, including ministers and senior education officials, as well as school leaders, teachers and all those committed to improving educational outcomes for all young Australians.

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Turning to the Australian Curriculum, our team has been focused on completing the Australian Curriculum Version 9 Languages review and supporting teachers to bring the curriculum to life in the classroom by providing high-quality optional support resources.

The final languages and language frameworks – Arabic, Auslan, Chinese for Background and First-language learners, Classical Greek, Classical Languages Framework, Framework for Aboriginal Languages and Torres Strait Islander Languages, and Latin – are now available.

In March, appropriately ahead of Budget season, we released the updated Consumer and financial literacy Curriculum Connection for the Australian Curriculum Version 9.

This resource highlights content relating to consumer and financial literacy across the curriculum, including aspects of personal finance; roles, rights and responsibilities; economic environment; and enterprise.

We have also released a new series of Professional Learning Hub courses designed to help teachers develop meaningful learning experiences, using the Australian Curriculum, that meet students' needs and abilities.

We look forward to continuing our work to inspire improvement in the learning of all young Australians through world-class curriculum, assessment and reporting.

Thank you.