

### 3 NATIONAL ASSESSMENTS TO BE CONDUCTED IN 2010

#### 3.1 2010 schedule of national assessments

In 2010 (as in 2008 and 2009), all Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students will participate in the **National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (2010 NAPLAN)**.

The 2010 sample assessment program will have both national and international elements

- a sample of Year 6 and Year 10 students from government, Catholic and independent schools in all States and Territories will be selected to participate in the **National Assessment Program – Civics and Citizenship (NAP-C&C, 2010)**
- samples of Year 4 and Year 8 students from government and non-government schools in all States and Territories will participate in the **Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS 2010-2011\*)** conducted by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA)
- the Year 4 students selected to participate in TIMSS will also participate in the **Progress in International Reading Literacy Study\*\* (PIRLS 2010-2011\*)** which will be conducted concurrently with TIMSS 2010-2011 by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA)

\* *Note:* In southern hemisphere countries, TIMSS and PIRLS will be conducted towards the end of 2010: in northern hemisphere countries, the assessments will be conducted in 2011.

\*\* *Note:* PIRLS does not form part of the standard National Assessment Program schedule of assessments. The four-year and five-year cycles for TIMSS and PIRLS, both conducted by the IEA, coincide in 2011, providing an opportunity to assess students' mathematics, science and reading literacy simultaneously.

#### 3.2 2010 National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)

The improvement of students' literacy and numeracy achievement is a key component of the national reform agenda with all Australian governments (Commonwealth, State and Territory) seeking to increase the proportion of young people meeting basic literacy and numeracy standards, and improving overall levels of literacy and numeracy achievement.

Full cohort national literacy and numeracy testing of all Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students will take place in May 2010. Schools are required to have obtained student background information from parents or guardians through the enrolment process for all students in those year levels. Schools and school systems implementing the required data collection arrangements for the first time in 2010 and which have not yet integrated the requirements in their enrolment process, will need to undertake special collections of student background information from students' parents using the question modules specified in this Manual.

ACARA will be responsible for national management of the NAPLAN tests in 2010. Test administration authorities are responsible for delivery and logistical services to schools at the State or Territory level. In 2010, the test administration authority for all schools (government, Catholic and independent) will be the relevant State or Territory education department or assessment agency. Administrative handbooks or manuals setting out the detailed arrangements for Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 NAPLAN testing in 2010 will be sent to each school by the relevant test administration authority.

Further information on the national literacy and numeracy tests, including details of contacts for each State and Territory test administration authority and the sector organisations for Catholic and independent schools, can be found on the NAPLAN website at [www.naplan.edu.au](http://www.naplan.edu.au).

#### 3.3 National Assessment Program – Civics and Citizenship (NAP-C&C, 2010)

A sample of Year 6 and Year 10 students from government, Catholic and independent schools in every State and Territory will be selected to participate in the National Assessment Program – Civics and Citizenship (NAP-C&C, 2010) in October 2010. This will be the third triennial assessment of civics and citizenship. The assessment will focus on students' civics knowledge and understanding, and the skills and values needed for active citizenship. (Reports on the 2004 and 2007 assessments are available on the MCEECDYA website at [www.mceecdya.edu.au](http://www.mceecdya.edu.au).)

Student background data collected in accordance with the specifications set out in this Manual will be drawn from enrolment records. Some jurisdictions may provide this information at the system or central level for their sector. Other jurisdictions will require it to be provided at the school level. The assessment contractor will supply participating schools with information on the administration of the assessment, including the electronic provision of student background data.

The Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) has been contracted to conduct the Year 6 and Year 10 Civics and Citizenship sample assessments. The report of the assessment results will document students' attainment in relation to proficiency levels and standards, including the performance of specified groups of students. It will also report on student results by sex, Indigenous status, language background, socioeconomic status categories and geographic location.

ACER will contact all schools selected to take part in the assessment by May 2010. A class of Year 6 students or Year 10 students in each of the sample schools will be selected to participate in the assessment. Each school selected in the sample will nominate a school contact person who will receive detailed information on procedures for the administration of the tests. The government, Catholic and independent sectors in each State and Territory will appoint liaison officers to communicate with schools or school systems on the conduct of the assessments.

### **3.4 IEA Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS 2010-2011)**

Samples of Year 4 and Year 8 students from government and non-government schools in all States and Territories will participate in the *Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS 2010-2011)*, which is conducted by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA) every four years.

This will be the fifth cycle of TIMSS, with previous cycles of TIMSS conducted in 1994, 1998, 2002 and 2006. TIMSS 2010-2011 will assess students' achievement in mathematics and science at Year 4 and Year 8.

In Australia, ACER will be the organisation responsible for managing the assessment.

In southern hemisphere countries, TIMSS will be conducted between October and December 2010. In northern hemisphere countries, the assessment will be conducted in 2011. This is to ensure that students are at the same stage of the school year in both hemispheres.

As for previous cycles of TIMSS, analysis of student achievement data will include disaggregation by sex, Indigenous status, socioeconomic background, language background and geographic location.

Further information on the IEA and TIMSS can be found at [www.iea.nl/](http://www.iea.nl/).

### **3.5 IEA Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS 2010-2011)**

The Year 4 students selected to participate in TIMSS 2010-2011 will also participate in the *Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS 2010-2011)* which, like TIMSS, is conducted by the IEA.

PIRLS 2010-2011, which will be conducted concurrently with TIMSS 2010-2011 between October and December 2010, will assess students' reading literacy at Year 4. ACER will also manage this assessment. As with TIMSS, in northern hemisphere countries, the PIRLS assessment will be conducted in 2011.

*PIRLS*, which is conducted on a five yearly cycle, does not form part of Australia's standard National Assessment Program schedule of assessments. This will be the first time that Australia has participated in an international reading literacy study in the primary years of schooling. Australia is participating in *PIRLS* in 2010-2011 because the four-year and five-year cycles for *TIMSS* and *PIRLS*, both conducted by the IEA, coincide in 2011 (the assessment year in northern hemisphere countries), providing an opportunity to assess students' mathematics, science and reading literacy simultaneously and to report on students' performance across different countries.

As with *TIMSS*, performance data from *PIRLS* will be disaggregated by relevant student background characteristics.

Further information on the IEA and *PIRLS* can be found at [www.iea.nl/](http://www.iea.nl/).