A new assessment framework for the new curriculum



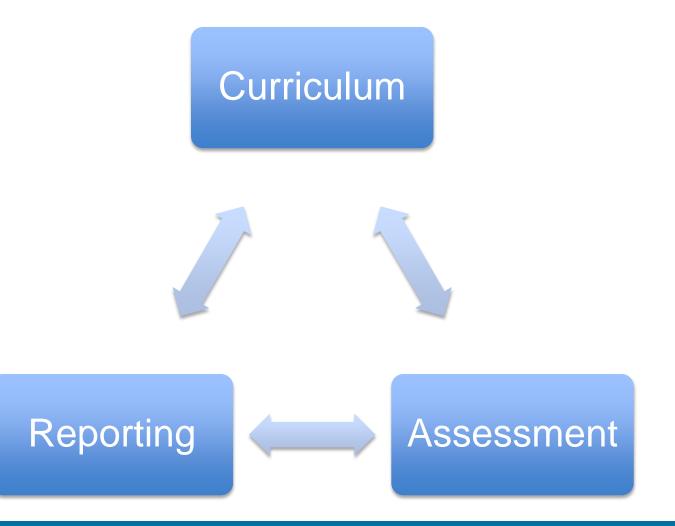
2015 ACACA Annual Conference 14 August 2015

Stanley Rabinowitz, PhD

General Manager, Assessment and Reporting



Why an assessment framework?



Process for development

Initial consultants

- Dr Sandy Heldsinger
- Robert Dudley

ACARA content and measurement staff

Ongoing collaboration

- referent groups (NADAR, NTWG)
- curriculum, assessment and reporting specialists



The framework outlines

- why NAPLAN: the principles underlying the assessment program from its inception in 2008 moving in to online assessment in 2017
- what NAPLAN assesses: content and item types
- how NAPLAN is designed: alignment between curriculum and assessment; supporting range of reports (ISRs, SSRS, national)
- appendix for NAPLAN 2016, which is to be aligned to the Australian Curriculum but paper-and-pencil based

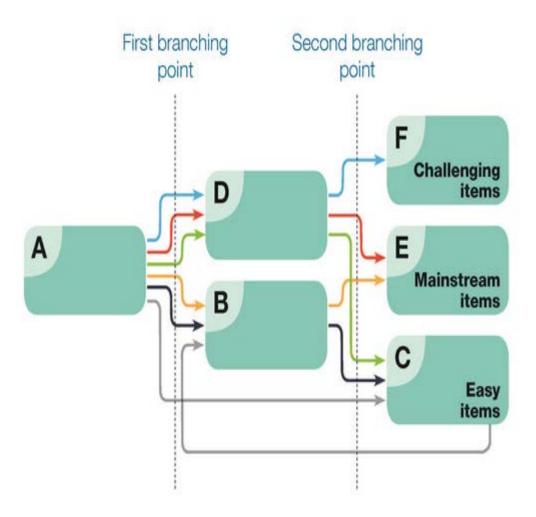
NAPLAN assesses

 demonstrated literacy and numeracy ability through the English and mathematics learning areas

 the literacy and numeracy elements of the general capabilities using contexts from all learning areas



Online adaptive testing (TTD)

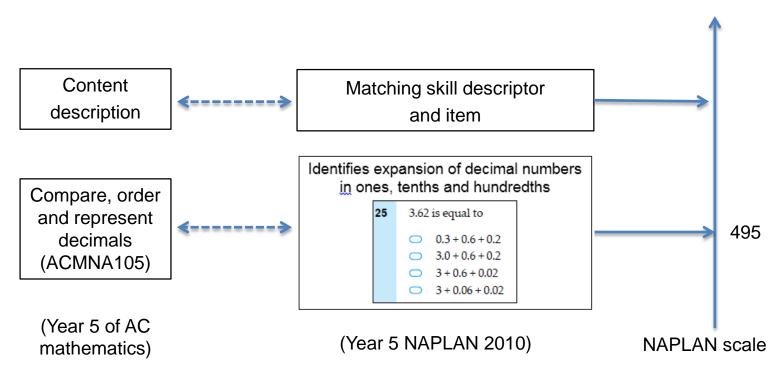


How does the curriculum connect to NAPLAN?

Through the mapping of item skill descriptors to curriculum strands and content descriptions (with the awareness of the May testing window and role of TTD)

- primarily below current year level
- at year level
- above year level

How the mapping works



- Each content description can be mapped to many NAPLAN items.
- Items may map to content descriptions at, above or below year level.
- A content description may have items covering a substantial range on the scale.



Supporting documents

- item development guidelines (for each domain)
- skills progressions
 - finer detailed empirically derived hierarchy of key skills in the development of literacy and numeracy.
 - used by item developers to target items to testlets in the TTD
- exemplar items (increased importance with fewer items being released)



Next steps

- update research as available (e.g., readability study)
- refine specifications
- construct skills progressions
- ongoing feedback and approvals.