Overview of presentation

- ACARA Update
- Australian Curriculum review
- Moving online
- Work plans
  - what would you have included in ACARA’s next four year work plan?
ACARA Update
New Board members

• Prof. Steven Schwartz – Chair
• Ms Jayne Johnston – South Australia
• Mr Paul Hewitt – New South Wales
• Dr David Howes – Victoria
• Dr Tim McDonald – NCEC
Reviews

• Australian Curriculum
• My School
• ACARA
Australian Curriculum Review
Work is underway to improve the Australian Curriculum addressing themes identified by the Education Council:
- uncrowding the curriculum
- rebalancing the curriculum
- improving accessibility for students with disability
- parental engagement.
Resolving the overcrowded curriculum

• Focusing on primary curriculum
• Refining and reducing content descriptions and achievement standards
• Redesigning humanities and social sciences (incorporating history, geography, civics and citizenship and economics and business) into one learning area for primary years
• Ensuring the general capabilities and cross curriculum priorities are appropriately tagged to learning areas
Rebalancing the Australian Curriculum

• Strengthening phonics and phonemic awareness in the Australian Curriculum: English
• Streamlining of the identification of general capabilities and cross curriculum priorities
• Strengthening of the representation of Western influences on Australia’s system of government
Accessibility and parental engagement

Improving accessibility

• Nine options identified; three with broad support

Parental access

• Consulting with agencies who have completed similar work and engaging with other key stakeholders
• Developing proposals to improve parent engagement followed.
Moving online
Continual refinements and improvements

- 2014: writing genre not released
- 2015: two writing prompts (one for year 3, 5; one for year 7, 9)
- 2016: alignment to the Australian Curriculum
- 2017: first opt in to NAPLAN online

For some students, 2015 may have been the last time they took a paper-based NAPLAN test
NAPLAN online messages

NAPLAN online will provide:

• better assessment
• more precise results
• faster turnaround of information

NAP Sample (C&C, ICT-L and Science) also online
NAPLAN online

• NAPLAN online is an important milestone with many steps that are well under control

• 2017 is the start of the transition to NAPLAN online. Jurisdictions and NAPLAN itself will ease in over time

• NAPLAN 2015 and 2016 are just as important for students and teachers

• The focus is on achievement and growth every year, whether online or on paper
Key dates

- Mid 2016: opt in to online testing for NAPLAN 2017
- 2017: first year of NAPLAN online - (transition year)
- 2018: second year of NAPLAN online - (transition year)
- 2019: NAPLAN delivered online nationally
Assessment Platform

- Online question and test authoring
- Assessment delivery system supporting “tailored testing design”
- Broad range of device support and varying delivery environments in schools
- Automated marking and scoring
- Reporting
- Administration and management of student data
- Data storage and archive
- Secure and Private
Work plans
ACARA 2015–16 work plan

• ACARA's 2015–16 work plan
  – approved by the ACARA Board on 29 April
  – endorsed by the Education Council on 29 May.

• Arrangements in place to implement the work plan from 1 July.

• No additional funding has been provided to ACARA.
ACARA 2015–16 work plan

- Overall priority to the move to NAPLAN online and implementation of changes to the Australian Curriculum.
- Ongoing curriculum, assessment and reporting activities eg:
  - Monitoring curriculum
  - My School updates
2016–17 to 2019–20 work plan

• Ongoing programs and priority change programs

• Goal is to have in principle agreement from Education Council in September.
Keeping in touch

• ACARA Update
• Stakeholder briefings
• Social media

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Thank you