Highlights from our ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15

Selected snapshots

acara AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM, ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING AUTHORITY
ACARA

+ ACARA turned six this year!
+ We have a team of 92 skilled and dedicated people across five business units.
+ Over the past six years, ACARA has built a solid foundation for the continued delivery of world-class school curriculum, assessment and reporting.
+ You could say we’ve ‘grown up’ alongside the millions of young students in F-Y12 classrooms throughout Australia.

AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM

+ Eleven language curricula have now been published.
+ ACARA has now published curriculum for all 8 learning areas.
+ Illustrations of personalised learning for gifted and talented students released.
+ Illustrations of primary curriculum management (20 videos) released.

Major milestones

A significant moment in Australian education history
NAP AND NAPLAN

+ **Eighth cycle** of NAPLAN – 1 million students took 4 million tests.
+ This year, for the first time, our NAPLAN national report included data for a full cohort of students who’ve sat NAPLAN tests since 2008.
+ For some students, 2015 was the last time taking pen-and-paper NAPLAN, because NAPLAN will commence **online delivery** from 2017 on an opt in basis.
+ Our online assessment research program continued this year – and we released the tailored test design study.
+ Year 6 and Year 10 students participated in the national assessment program (NAP) **information and communication technology** (ICT) literacy sample assessments.
+ ACARA released the NAP **civics and citizenship** and we held NAP trials for **science literacy**.

MY SCHOOL

+ *My School* was updated and now offers **seven years of data**.
+ The site experienced a **50% increase** in visitor numbers.
+ This year it was updated with **student attendance** data.
+ An independent review of *My School* showed parents value it and users appreciate the range of information available in one place.
COMMUNICATIONS

+ **Interaction** with our many **stakeholders** continued in earnest.
+ 24 issues of our regular newsletter **ACARA Update** were circulated to our growing subscriber base of 30,000.
+ 35 **new information videos** about topical curriculum, assessment and reporting matters were produced and released.
+ We responded to **500 media queries**.
+ **Social media followers** increased during the year to over 22,000.
+ Our **websites were busier than ever** with user sessions recorded at 800,000 for the ACARA site; 4.4 million for Australian Curriculum; just under 1 million for NAPLAN and almost one and a half million on the *My School* site.

LOOKING AHEAD

For the 2015 – 2016 year, the priorities for ACARA are:

+ Ongoing curriculum, assessment and reporting activities
+ Increasing our focus on moving NAPLAN online
+ Further improving the Australian curriculum
+ Further language development (Hindi, Turkish, Auslan, classical languages)
+ Aligning NAPLAN 2016 with the Australian Curriculum
+ Additional improvements to *My School*
+ More stakeholder engagement and a strong focus on two-way communications.