

MEDIA RELEASE

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NAPLAN TESTS START TOMORROW

Tomorrow will see more than 1.1 million students in Australia sit this year's National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests.

From Tuesday 13 through to Thursday 15 May, students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 right across Australia will take the annual literacy and numeracy tests.

NAPLAN is the annual assessment undertaken by students across the country, testing the important literacy and numeracy skills that every child will need if they are to successfully progress through school and life.

'Students sitting their Year 9 NAPLAN tests this year were the first group of children to take part in the inaugural NAPLAN tests in 2008,' says Robert Randall, CEO of the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA).

'Over this time, parents and teachers of these children have been provided with data and reports that help them place their child's performance in a school and national context.'

NAPLAN also provides an opportunity for government and education authorities to better understand how schools, school systems and the nation are going in these important areas of the curriculum.

'The tests provide valuable data to support good teaching and learning and school improvement,' Mr Randall adds. 'The tests are now a feature of the annual school calendar – just like the school athletics carnival, awards night or parent teacher interviews – and schools have good programs in place to support students undertaking the tests. These include appropriate familiarisation activities so that students know what to expect on the day, but the preparation has been going on for the whole year through rich and challenging literacy and numeracy learning activities'.

Results of this year's tests will be available later in the year.

For more information, contact Robyn Ziino, Director, Communications and Strategic Relations, on 0404 746 263 or by email at robyn.ziino@acara.edu.au

Audio files for radio station use

[Audio grabs of CEO Rob Randall talking about NAPLAN](#) are available on the ACARA website.