Tomorrow approximately one million students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will sit tests in language conventions and writing as the annual National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy begins.

“Literacy and numeracy are at the heart of everything that goes on in schools, and it makes sense to check in on how students are progressing. NAPLAN provides important information to parents, schools and the community that cannot be obtained anywhere else, and which can be used to identify strategies to improve educational results,” said Robert Randall, CEO of the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA), which develops NAPLAN tests.

Mr Randall also advised that, with the tests about to begin, parents, schools, and students should take the tests in their stride.

“NAPLAN tests fundamental skills in reading, writing and mathematics. The tests take only a few hours over the course of a few days, and students sit the tests every other year.”

“The core business of schools and teachers is to develop these skills is by teaching and testing a robust and diverse curriculum.”

“Parents and carers can also play a big role in developing their children’s literacy and numeracy skills. This can be done in many ways, such as reading to children and encouraging them to read, and incorporating numbers and mathematics into everyday household activities.”

On Tuesday, 14 May, students sit tests in language conventions and writing, with reading tested the following day and numeracy on Thursday. Each individual test takes between 40 and 65 minutes, depending on year level.

“Students should come to school prepared to do their best, but also understanding that the stakes are not high for individual performance,” added Mr Randall.

During the NAPLAN testing period, and through the NAPLAN test integrity period which lasts through 24 May, media are asked to observe protocols by not showing images of actual tests or reporting on test content.
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About ACARA:
The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) is the independent authority responsible for the development of a national curriculum, a national assessment program and a national data collection and reporting program that supports 21st century learning for all Australian students. ACARA’s work is carried out in collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders, including teachers, principals, governments, State and Territory education authorities, professional education associations, community groups and the general public.