

Australian Alliance of Associations in Education



Saturday 25 July 2015

acara AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM,
ASSESSMENT AND
REPORTING AUTHORITY

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



@ACARAeduau and @ACARA_CEO



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Thank you

