

Highlights from our

ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15



Selected snapshots

acara AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM,
ASSESSMENT AND
REPORTING AUTHORITY



ACARA

Major milestones

- + 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

A significant moment in Australian education history

- + **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.



NAP AND NAPLAN

— first time ever!

- + **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**.

— Last time for some

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.

Growing interest

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.

The countdown is on!

