

# FACT SHEET

## *National Assessment Program*

### **What is the National Assessment Program?**

The National Assessment Program (NAP), overseen by the Education Council, includes National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN), three yearly sample assessments in science literacy, civics and citizenship, and information and communication technology (ICT) literacy, and participation in international sample assessments.

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) is the independent statutory authority responsible for the management of the National Assessment Program, in collaboration with representatives from all states and territories and non-government school sectors.

### **NAPLAN**

NAPLAN is an annual assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. It tests the types of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life. The tests cover skills in reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy.

### **NAP sample assessments**

NAP sample assessments occur annually on a cyclical basis. The civics and citizenship test was delivered online for the first time in 2013 and again in 2016. In 2017, ICT literacy was tested with Science literacy being tested in 2018.

Only a small sample of randomly selected schools participate in the sample assessments, which provide a national snapshot of performance in these three agreed areas of learning.

### **International sample assessments**

As part of the National Assessment Program, Australia participates in the following international sample assessments:

- [Programme for International Student Assessment \(PISA\)](#)
- [Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study \(TIMSS\)](#)
- [Progress in International Reading Literacy Study \(PIRLS\)](#).

ACARA does not oversee the delivery of these assessments.

### **What does the National Assessment Program mean for Catholic education?**

All schools must participate in annual NAPLAN testing to fulfil funding obligations in national legislation. Schools randomly selected in NAP sample assessments can only be exempted from participating due to unforeseen or extreme hardship circumstances.

### **Links**

For more information visit: [NAP website](#)