

NATIONAL LITERACY AND NUMERACY ASSESSMENTS MAY 2008

NAPLAN REPORTING SCALES

The NAPLAN results will be reported using five scales, one for each of the following: Reading, Writing, Numeracy, Spelling and Grammar & Punctuation. These reporting scales will each span Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

Each of the NAPLAN reporting scales describes the development of student achievement from Year 3 through to Year 9 along a scale with scores that range from 0 to 1000. By locating all students on a single scale that describes their performance and skills, the new NAPLAN scales provide significantly more information about the performance of students than has previously been available in the areas of literacy and numeracy.

The NAPLAN scales are constructed so that any given score represents the same level of achievement over time. For example, a score of 700 in Reading will have the same meaning in 2012 as it had in 2010. This will enable changes in literacy and numeracy standards to be monitored over time.

The use of a common scale that spans Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 allows both the status of, and growth in, student achievement to be monitored and reported throughout students' years of schooling. A key feature of the new national scales is that they will enable the achievement of all students to be monitored. For example, for the first time at the national level, it will be possible to gauge the achievement of the most able students and at the same time to pay attention to students who have yet to reach the agreed national minimum standard.

Vertical scales spanning Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 also pave the way for a range of sophisticated analyses of student achievement at the national level such as value-added measures.

The 0 to 1000 scale is divided into 10 bands to cover the full range of student achievement observed in the tests. The bands map the increasing complexity of the skills assessed by NAPLAN. Six of these bands are utilised for reporting student performance at each year level. The Year 3 reports show Bands 1 to 6, the Year 5 reports show Bands 3 to 8, the Year 7 reports show Bands 4 to 9, and the Year 9 reports show Bands 5 to 10. The cut-points for the bands will be maintained at the same locations for the foreseeable future.

For each year level a national minimum standard is defined and located on the common underlying scale. For Year 3 Band 2 is the national minimum standard, for Year 5 Band 4 is the national minimum standard, for Year 7 Band 5 is the national minimum standard and for Year 9 Band 6 is the national minimum standard. These standards represent increasingly challenging skills and so require increasingly higher scores on the NAPLAN scale.

The national scales that map and describe the development of student achievement from Year 3 through to Year 9 represent an important and historic milestone for Australia.