

PORTFOLIO REPORTS - STATE COUNCIL

DISTANCE EDUCATION, SOTA AND CURRICULUM REPORT

Chandra Ridley – Portfolio Leader, March 2025

NAPLAN

On 14 August 2024 NAPLAN results were released. Nationally and across all states and territories, in all domains, the differences in average scores since 2023 were negligible. This is to be expected, given that only one year has elapsed since the NAPLAN measurement scales were reset.

There is a nationally higher proportion of Indigenous students needing additional support compared to the overall student population. A lower proportion of students in very remote schools are rated as ‘strong’ or ‘exceeding’ compared to students in major city schools.

Female students outperformed male students in writing, but the opposite occurred in numeracy.

Full NAPLAN results are available at www.acara.edu.au/naplanresults

SOTA

Carnarvon School of the Air (SOTA) has a new principal Lisa Coon following the retirement of Max Gromwald.

Esther Kerr has been appointed as Network Principal - Schools of the Air. Esther commenced in the role on 25 November 2024 until the end of 2025. As the current Principal of Kimberley School of the Air, Esther brings with her a wealth of experience and a passion for distance education.

Esther will work in collaboration with SOTA Principals and the broader SOTA community, including ICPA members, to develop and implement a range of strategies that will enhance success for remote students and strengthen and align the Schools of the Air practices.

In early March 2025, ICPA (WA) representatives were invited by Esther to meet with SOTA Principals, SOTA School Board Chairs and Sue Potter (REVISE). The focus of the meeting was to consult on the development of a Terms of Reference for a SOTA Parent Advisory Group. Esther anticipates that the Terms of Reference will be ready to implement later in March, and we look forward to the formation of the group.

In October Brian Abbey was appointed Principal of Port Hedland SOTA replacing Michael Jennings.

CURRICULUM

The School's Curriculum and Standards Authority released an initial series of videos in 2024 to support teaching and learning in the early years. New videos have now been released focusing on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives to support early childhood educators. The Authority is also supporting the training of early childhood teachers by developing a video for Western Australian universities to use with pre-service teachers to enhance their understanding of teaching in the early years.

The National Assessment Program-Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will run from Wednesday, 12 March until Monday, 24 March 2025.

In November, a new online learning course went live. The new student diversity course for teachers is on the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) Professional Learning Hub. It assists teachers with developing a deeper understanding of the CASE (Curriculum, Abilities, Standards, Evaluation) model to personalise student learning:



- Exploring age/year level content descriptions and Achievement Standards in the Australian Curriculum.
- Identifying the strengths and barriers to learning for an entire class and individual students.
- Understanding how to apply universally designed strategies and instructional, environmental, and curriculum adjustments to address students' strengths and barriers to learning.