



# Progress Report 2023 Federal Conference Motions Curriculum Portfolio

Compiled March 2024

There was one motion carried in the Curriculum Portfolio at the 2023 Federal Conference, pertaining to the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) testing.

In 2023, the dates of the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) testing were moved to earlier in the school year, in term one. The motion presented at conference requested a review of NAPLAN reporting timeframes to enable schools to access students' results in a timely manner, preferably during term two in the year of examination, to better support the specific learning needs of rural and remote students. The motion cited that one of the expectations of the date change was that results would be provided to schools in a timely manner, so that they may review the results, identify the needs of the cohort and individual students, and provide necessary support as available. However, in 2023, the NAPLAN results were still not available until term three, limiting schools' capacity to review, act upon and support students. The motion expressed concern regarding the well documented widening gap between metropolitan and rural and remote students in relation to results of NAPLAN testing and that earlier reporting would provide improved opportunities for schools to address learning gaps.

ICPA (Aust) continues to have a representative on the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) Peak Parents and Principals Forum, which meets quarterly. Shortly after conference, Federal Council had the opportunity to raise this issue at an in person meeting in Sydney. It was also raised during meetings with the Federal Department of Education Regional School Policy team in October.

During these meetings, several points were discussed as influencing factors that delayed the release of NAPLAN 2023 reporting. NAPLAN underwent major reform in 2023, with the school testing window moved from May to March and the testing delivery transitioned to an online platform. Once the testing was completed, the re-setting of the scales and baseline commenced, with the scales now using proficiency standards as opposed to achievement bands. Results are now reported against proficiency standards with four levels (exceeding, strong, developing and needs additional support) for each of the four assessment domains (writing, reading, conventions of language and numeracy) at each year level. The reset of NAPLAN scales and baselines now links it to the national curriculum so schools can see where the expectations are for years 3,5,7,9 students across the four domains. The use of proficiency standards provides clear information on a student's achievement against the national average for their year. It was explained that the key issue influencing the delay was the time required to reset this baseline.

The NAPLAN assessment processes were discussed, along with their influence on the final school/student reports. It is proposed, post the 2023 transition year, that NAPLAN reports (without the writing component - as it is still manually assessed) will be given to schools earlier than in previous years (suggested this could be the end of April). Once the writing component is assessed the school/student-based reporting should be finalised by June. The aim is for individual student reports to be completed before the end of term two, with consideration of barriers expected during terms one and two, such as Easter, Anzac Day and holidays, making the testing and assessment reporting timeframe a challenge.



It is anticipated that NAPLAN 2024 should not have the delays between the assessment and the reporting to schools, parents and students experienced in 2023. The Department of Education and all involved jurisdictions are working towards a term two delivery of reporting to schools, but it was acknowledged that this still needs improvement.

With NAPLAN testing occurring as this report is being written, ICPA (Aust) will endeavour to keep abreast of reporting timeframes and ensure to continue to raise concerns regarding lengthy periods within ACARA meetings.

*Portfolio Leaders- Anna McCorkle and Naomi Obst*

To view the full 2023 Federal Conference Motion Update Report click [here](#).