

## CONTENT FOR PRINCIPAL PEAK BODIES – JUNE 2020

### ACARA WEBSITES – FEEDBACK WANTED!

ACARA is embarking on an organisation-wide project to redesign its website portfolio, which has a combined audience of over five million visitors a year. The aim of this project is to make sure you can easily access information on ACARA's work and improve your website experience.

To make sure their new websites are designed around you, they need to gather your insights on the usability and opportunities for improvement of their websites, and would appreciate if you took the time to complete some surveys on their various websites:

- Please complete the [ACARA/NAP website survey](#).
- Please complete the [My School website survey](#).
- Please complete the [Australian Curriculum website survey](#).

Your time and feedback through these surveys is greatly appreciated.

### 10 YEARS ON: ACARA'S ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ADVISORY GROUP

This year, ACARA is honouring and celebrating the 10-year anniversary of the establishment of ACARA's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group. Over those 10 years, the advisory group has provided invaluable guidance and support to ACARA and the ACARA Board.

The group was convened to provide ACARA's executive with high-level advice and expertise regarding the needs of all young Australians and, specifically, the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in relation to ACARA's national curriculum, assessment and reporting programs.

Now, a decade on, and five of the original members of the group continue to be a part of the advisory group. Doctor Kaye Price, Professor Mark Rose, Professor Peter Buckskin, Will Davis and Myra Singh were original members of the group and continue to represent the high-level views of their communities on matters discussed. ACARA thanks them and the other current group members – Isabelle Adams, Geraldine Atkinson, Gail Barrow, Cindy Berwick, Jesse King, Chris Matthews and Theresa Sainty – for their ongoing support.

The advisory group members have been integral to important advances ACARA has made and continues to make, particularly in the areas of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures cross-curriculum priority, our Reconciliation Action Plan and more recently, the Science elaborations.

## NATIONAL REPORT ON SCHOOLING 2018 RELEASED

The [National Report on Schooling in Australia for 2018](#) has been released. ACARA produces this report on behalf of the [COAG Education Council](#).

The 2018 report includes a summary of nationally agreed policy initiatives and a report on national key performance measures. A dashboard represents any statistically significant changes in key performance measures.

Data reported for 2018 include that:

- The national school enrolment rate for the 6–15-year-old population was 99.7 per cent.
- The average national attendance rate for all students (Indigenous and non-Indigenous) in Years 1–10 was 91.9 per cent. Average attendance rates were higher for Years 1–6 than for Years 7–10.
- At 82.3 per cent, the average attendance rate for Indigenous students was 10.2 percentage points lower than for non-Indigenous students (92.5 per cent). This gap increased by 0.4 percentage points from 2017.
- Three quarters (75.2 per cent) of all Australian students in Years 1–10 attended school for at least 90 per cent of school days. However, less than half (48.7 per cent) of Indigenous students within this group met the 90 per cent benchmark.
- NAPLAN participation rates were over 90 per cent for reading and writing for each of Years 3, 5, 7 and 9, and for numeracy for Years 3, 5 and 7. Year 9 participation rates were lower than for other years across all domains.

ACARA's online data portal was also recently updated with the latest 2018 and 2019 data available. Information updated on the data portal in April 2020 includes the latest available data for:

- key performance measures for schooling
- school numbers, student numbers and staff numbers
- student–teacher ratios
- student enrolment and retention rates
- school funding
- school students with disability
- NAP Sample – Science Literacy
- teacher education.

See the [National Report on Schooling and the data portal](#).