



# ACARA Charter

December 2022



This Charter is issued by the

ACARA is aware of the day-to-day workload placed on teachers and the need to take into account the pressures and challenges that teachers face when considering changes to matters relating to national curriculum, assessment and reporting.

Technological, social and economic changes are shaping the world within which students are learning, which is very different to the world in which their parents and teachers grew up. The education system is vitally important to ensure our young people are able to thrive in this world as well as shape it for the better. For example, the world is increasingly digitally interconnected, simultaneously giving rise to opportunities and potential threats related to privacy and data security. ACARA will be mindful of these risks and will liaise with jurisdictions and school sectors in relation to the regulatory environment.

The National School Reform Agreement (NSRA) agreed in 2019 is currently under review. The new NSRA to come into effect from 2024 will likely have bearing on ACARA's work.

On 1 April 2022 Education Ministers Meeting approved the Australian Curriculum, which was subsequently published on a new, interactive website on 9 May 2022. The national curriculum ensures that every child in Australia, regardless of where they live or the school they attend, has access to a world-class curriculum.

National assessment helps school education leaders, teachers and parents periodically assess students against previous performance, national benchmarks and their peers using an objective measure. The *National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy* (NAPLAN) is used in combination with other forms of assessment to diagnose learning and inform priorities for schools and education authorities. New digital technologies can transform assessment, including delivering more precise results and the faster turnaround of information. In 2022 full transition to NAPLAN online was achieved.

Public reporting promotes accountability and engagement in school education. Provision of quality information on schooling is important for schools and their students, for parents

*supporting its implementation*

- *providing authoritative advice to stakeholders and facilitating information sharing, collaboration and support for the Australian Curriculum*
- *monitoring the effectiveness of implementation of the Australian Curriculum and undertaking research to inform national policy and practice.*

*In delivering this strategic direction, ACARA will address the following priorities:*

- *monitor the accessibility, balance and manageability of the national curriculum*
- *collect curriculum implementation information to assist with development of the next generation of curriculum*
- *scope options for further development of senior secondary curriculum in partnership with interested jurisdictions*
- *develop curriculum support materials, including work samples, illustrations of practice and professional development resources to support teachers to implement the Australian Curriculum.*

ACARA will:

- provide a quality, comprehensive and cohesive suite of national assessments.

*This strategic direction will be achieved through:*

- *implementing National Assessment Program reforms agreed by the Education Ministers Meeting*
- *researching, developing and supporting activities required for high quality assessments*
- *managing the planning development, delivery and reporting for the National Assessment Program (NAP) – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) and the National Assessment Program (NAP) sample assessments.*

*In delivering this strategic direction, ACARA will address the following priorities:*

- *ensure an effective transition of NAPLAN to Term One from 2023, and the phased implementation of “opt-in” assessments in Science, Civics and Citizenship and Digital Literacy from 2024*
- *ensure that the suite of online assessments is directly linked to the new national curriculum*
- *research the implications of emerging technologies for educational assessment and provide advice to ministers on new initiatives to improve the National Assessment Program in light of this research*
- *aim to minimise administrative impact of reforms on schools*
- *collaborate with education authorities to improve teacher understanding of the principles and practice of good classroom assessment and the interpretation and use of assessment results.*

ACARA will:

- provide and apply a comprehensive and reliable national measurement framework

- facilitate the use and dissemination of data for research and policy development in accordance with agreed protocols
- present detailed, accessible, timely and meaningful school education performance information

*This strategic direction will be achieved through:*

- *monitoring, reviewing and improving the existing national key performance measures for schools, and producing comprehensive and authoritative national reports*
- *managing the collection and quality assurance of data, and providing national school information, including through the My School website*
- *managing the sharing and dissemination of data.*

In developed countries (e.g. USA, UK, Canada, Australia, etc.)

- **Strategic direction** : ACARA's priorities are based on initiatives that are collectively agreed by the Education Ministers Meeting, focusing on matters that are most effectively undertaken at a national level
- **Work streams** : work streams undertaken by ACARA align internally and complement the national education agenda
- **Quality of products and services** : delivering superior, creative and effective products and services that are fit for purpose and actively assist jurisdictions in the implementation of the national education agenda
- **Timeliness** : ensuring products and services are developed and delivered in a timely manner within agreed budgets
- **Assurance** : ACARA's planning and reporting is undertaken in a manner that provides assurance to the Education Ministers Meeting that ACARA's work is in the national interest
- **Collaboration** : working collaboratively with all jurisdictions, the non-government education sector, Ministerial companies and authorities and relevant stakeholders, to ensure ACARA's outputs are aligned with the national education agenda and ACARA communicates effectively with and seeks input from the general public.

In performing its functions, ACARA will:

- act in accordance with the directions and decisions of the Education Ministers Meeting, including in response to emerging priorities; and
- progress advice to the Education Ministers Meeting in accordance with protocols, procedures and/or arrangements agreed by the Education Ministers Meeting or the Australian Education Senior Officials Committee (AESOC).

ACARA is required to operate in accordance with the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Act 2008 and related Charter.

ACARA's Charter is implemented through ACARA's rolling four-year work plan, which refers to Charter directions and priorities and presents planned key activities for the quadrennium.

Each year ACARA will:

- in accordance with the Charter, develop and present a four-year work plan and budget to the Education Ministers Meeting for endorsement
- develop and present to the Education Ministers Meeting an annual report against its work plan for the financial year.

Section 6(a) of the *ACARA Act* states that the functions of ACARA include to *Tj-0.005c 0.0050 j0 Tc 0 Tw 0.8*

- Italian
- Japanese
- Korean
- Latin
- Modern Greek
- Spanish
- Turkish
- Vietnamese

9-10 Work Studies (optional)

#### English

- English
- English as an Additional Language or Dialect
- Essential English
- Literature

#### Mathematics

- Essential Mathematics
- General Mathematics
- Mathematical Methods
- Specialist Mathematics

#### Science

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Earth and Environmental Science
- Physics

#### Humanities and Social Sciences

- Ancient History
- Geography
- Modern History

Developing and administering a national school curriculum includes ACARA determining whether alternative curriculum frameworks meet the requirements of the national curriculum.