

Principal     Curriculum Coordinator     PD Coordinator     P-10 Teacher

# P-10 Supplement

Information about Prep to Year 10 education  
in Victorian schools

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## Key Dates P-10

**Distribution of AIM report**  
October 2003 (see details on page 2)

**AIM Professional Development**  
23 October – 28 November (see details on pages 4-5)

**Future AIM testing dates**  
3 and 4 August 2004  
2 and 3 August 2005

**Distribution of Annotated Work Samples Music**  
Early Term 4 (see details on page 7)

**Annotated Work Samples (Music) PD**  
13 October – 7 November  
(see details on page 6)

## About this Supplement

The VCAA Bulletin supplements are occasional publications designed to provide detailed information about particular areas of study and VCAA initiatives. The P-10 Supplement will focus on curriculum and assessment in the compulsory years of schooling and Years 9 and 10 which mark a transition from the compulsory years to post-compulsory pathways.

The VCAA Bulletin focuses on senior secondary curriculum and assessment matters and is distributed to secondary schools. This monthly publication is also available on the VCAA website at: [www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/vce/bulletin/index.htm](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/vce/bulletin/index.htm)

**I am pleased to introduce the first P-10 Supplement to the VCAA Bulletin, an occasional publication which will provide schools with information about some of the important work being undertaken by the VCAA in curriculum and assessment in Years Prep to 10.**

In this supplement you will find details of developments in



the VCAA statewide testing program, the Achievement Improvement Monitor (AIM) including information about AIM Online. AIM Online provides an assessment tool for monitoring student achievement against the CSF and can be accessed at any time from the classroom. Of particular interest is the Computer Adaptive Testing which determines the CSF level of individual students by adjusting questions according to each student's response. Other interesting and progressive features of the AIM Online, the AIM Professional Development Program and information about the national benchmarks are detailed in this supplement.

In the P-10 curriculum area, the VCAA has published a

number of sample units, programs and annotated work samples in 2003 and conducted professional development in the use of these materials across the state. The Annotated Work Samples series will soon be completed with the distribution of The Arts (Music) Annotated Work Samples. Dates and locations of workshops in the use of the Music Annotated Work Samples and details of forthcoming publications in information and communications technology, Maths and English can be found in the supplement.

At the VCAA we look forward to continuing to provide support through close consultation and communication with the teaching profession.

## AIM Implementation in 2003

This year a total of 2400 schools and over 180 000 students in Years 3, 5 and 7 in government, catholic and independent sectors took part in the Achievement Improvement Monitor (AIM) statewide testing program.

Schools conducted the centrally assessed tasks in Mathematics and English on 5 and 6 August under standard test conditions and materials.

Copies of tests and supporting materials from 2000–2003 can be found at the VCAA website or by following this link:

[www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/aim/testing/index.htm](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/aim/testing/index.htm)

## Reporting Against Benchmarks

### Parent pamphlet

Schools will be receiving pamphlets to distribute to parents on reporting against national benchmarks in reading, writing and mathematics at Years 3 and 5. The pamphlet explains why benchmark reporting has been included in this year's parent reports.

This is the first time the VCAA has reported against national benchmarks. Parents will find this additional information of student performance useful as a measure of their child's achievements against minimum agreed national standards (see page 8 for details).

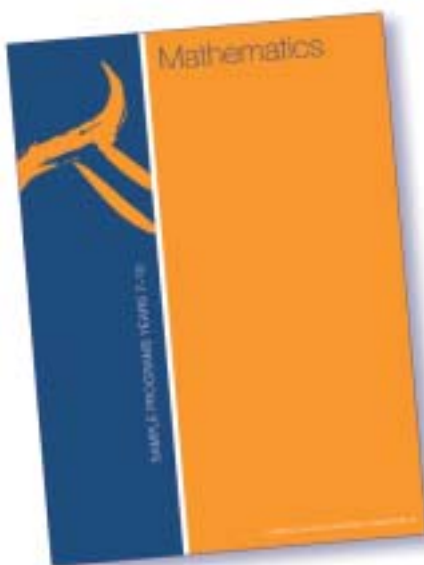


### AIM Reporting

Results will be reported to schools in October 2003. Each school will receive the following:

- a parent report for each student
- a CD-ROM reporting the school's results
- reporting manuals
- pamphlets explaining national benchmarks.

## Mathematics Sample Programs 7–10



All secondary schools recently received the *Mathematics Sample Programs 7–10* print publication. This resource provides mathematics teachers with assistance in planning, teaching and assessing Mathematics across levels 5, 6 and 6 extension of the CSF. It provides a framework for eight semesters of work (from Year 7 to Year 10) that comprehensively covers all mathematics learning outcomes within a range of possible approaches. The programs are designed to offer a model that teachers can use to assist them in developing and implementing courses to suit the needs and interests of their students.

The resource links CSF levels and strands to a coherent sequence of topics and cross references these topics to learning outcomes and related teaching and learning activities from the Department of Education and Training *curriculum@work* resource.

*Mathematics Sample Programs Years 7–10* complements and supports other VCAA publications including the *Mathematics Annotated Work Samples*, *Reasoning and Strategies Levels 1–6* and the *Information and Communications Technology in Mathematics* chart.

#### For further information contact:

David Leigh-Lancaster (03) 9651 4537 or email: [leigh-lancaster.david.d@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:leigh-lancaster.david.d@edumail.vic.gov.au)

# AIM Online

**A**IM Online is a pilot project which has involved over 70 secondary schools in a testing program delivered to schools over the Internet. In 2003 over 5000 Year 7 students participated in computer adaptive tests in English and Mathematics and wrote essays on the computer. Student responses were then uploaded to the VCAA and marked.

## English and Mathematics Computer adaptive tests

Computer adaptive tests are tests that adapt to the responses of the student. In the AIM computer tests this year, each student was presented with an individualised test of 60 questions. The

test started by each student receiving a set of questions from across the curriculum. If the student answered these correctly they were presented with a more difficult set; if the students found them difficult they were presented with an easier set. Using this method each student worked through the test answering questions around their ability level. The questions were drawn from the CSF and had been tested for difficulty prior to the tests.

The questions and the student answers were then analysed and results produced for the student and the school. These results will be sent to the school in October.

## Online Essay Writing

An exciting new addition to AIM Online in 2003 is the capacity for

students to complete questions requiring essay responses online. This is the first time in Australia that an online English writing task has been offered to students across the state.

Students were presented with a topic on screen and keyed in their responses, having access to a basic word processor with editing capacity but no spell checker. Student responses can then be uploaded and marked on the computer by markers at the VCAA.

*'Students who completed both written and computer tests indicated that their preference was for the computer testing'* – Year 7 teacher.

**For further information contact:**  
AIM Online: [www.aimonline.vic.edu.au](http://www.aimonline.vic.edu.au)

# CSF Sample Units

## ICT

**S**ample units which focus on the effective use of information and communications technology (ICT) in each of the key learning areas (KLAs) across all CSF levels are being developed for publication on CD-ROM and online and will be available later this semester.

The *ICT Sample Units* aim to assist teachers in delivering a curriculum and assessment program that fosters the effective use of ICT. This is achieved primarily through the provision of units that embed the use of ICT in student learning in all KLAs at each of CSF levels 1–6.

Each unit assumes that ICT is used as a core curriculum tool, not just as an ancillary to traditional teaching and learning. The ICT units have as their source, examples provided in the ICT charts published in 2000. While the charts provide brief examples of how ICT can be used, the Sample Units elaborate on the teaching and learning activities.

Each unit consists of:

- an overview of the unit
- unit objectives
- resource list

- teacher notes
- links to relevant learning outcomes and indicators in the strand and other KLAs
- identification of prior learning assumed for the strand and the ICT knowledge and skills
- an assessment table
- student activities sheets in PDF files.

The *ICT Sample Units* illustrate how ICT can be used by teachers in the development of ICT across all KLAs through the inclusion of some integrated units. Each unit can be modified to reflect local conditions such as accessibility and location of computers, preferred teaching and learning styles and time.

## English and Maths Years 8 to 10

The VCAA is currently developing sample units in Mathematics and English designed to engage and encourage students in Years 8–10 who may be at risk of not continuing into post-compulsory education. This new resource provides samples of contextual and practical approaches to teaching and learning and incorporates student centred learning approaches and a balance of scaffolded and open ended tasks.

The sample units are also designed to facilitate student work and

assessment at mixed levels of ability. Each English activity is linked to English CSF learning outcomes and, relevant key competencies. In addition, self-assessment sheets are provided, where relevant, to encourage and support students in reflecting on their work and achievement. The English material covers a range of texts and contexts which students encounter in the workplace and everyday life.

The Mathematics sample units comprise a mix of applications in real life contexts and activity based approaches to mathematical concepts. Each sample unit is designed for adaptation to different levels of student ability and most of the tasks are open ended with extension ideas available. Many of the units make extensive use of graphic calculator and computer technologies.

Units in both key learning areas are comprehensively linked to the CSF and include advice on teaching approaches and assessment activities.

**For further information about P–10 curriculum support materials contact:**  
Phone (03) 9651 4410 or refer to the VCAA website at [www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/csfsampleunits/index.htm](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/csfsampleunits/index.htm)

# AIM Professional Development Program

As a follow up to the AIM testing, the VCAA offers a professional development series of workshops delivered throughout Victoria to principals, Year 3, Year 5 and Year 7 teachers of English and Mathematics and curriculum leaders. This is organised and presented for the VCAA during October and November by Philip Holmes-Smith who is a leading educational and measurement expert.

The program aims to provide an update on the AIM Statewide assessment program for Years 3, 5 and 7 students and to explore the AIM data analysis and reporting software for schools.

Reporting against national benchmarks is a new feature of the AIM Statewide testing program and participants will be briefed on the national benchmark comparisons contained in parent and school reports.

Schools will be sent an invitation to attend the workshops during September. Registration details for these sessions will be included with the invitation and can also be found on the VCAA website.

Feedback from participants in 2002 has indicated that this program is very important in enabling schools and educators to understand, and effectively use the detailed information which the AIM results provide both in the classroom and to inform curriculum development and learning and teaching programs.

Application forms are available on the VCAA website at:

[www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/aim/index.htm](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/aim/index.htm)

## BARWON SOUTH WESTERN

<b>Colac</b>	Wednesday 12 November	8:30 am – 11:15 am	Comfort Inn, 289 Murray St, Colac
<b>Warrnambool</b>	Wednesday 12 November	1:00 pm – 3:45 pm 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm	Sundowner Warrnambool Mid City 525 Raglan Parade, Warrnambool
<b>Portland</b>	Thursday 13 November	8:30 am – 11:15 am	Flag Heritage Hotel Bentinck 41 Bentinck Street, Portland
<b>Hamilton</b>	Thursday 13 November	1:00 pm – 3:45 pm	Comfort Inn Grange Burn 142 Ballarat Street, Hamilton
<b>Geelong</b>	Friday 28 November	8:30 am – 11:15 am 1:00 pm – 3:45 pm	Geelong Regional Office Vines Rd, North Geelong

## WESTERN METROPOLITAN

<b>Hoppers Crossing</b>	Thursday 6 November	8:30 am – 11:15 am	Wyndham Leisure & Events Centre, 82 Derrimut Rd, Hoppers Crossing
<b>Flemington</b>	Thursday 6 November	1:00 pm – 3:45 pm 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm	Quest Flemington Cnr Smithfield & Epsom Rds, Flemington
<b>Taylors Lakes</b>	Thursday 20 November	8:30 am – 11:15 am	Lakeside Reception Centre 65 Melton Hwy, Taylors Lakes
<b>Sunshine</b>	Thursday 20 November	1:00 pm – 3:45 pm 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm	Victoria University Convention Centre Gate A, 460 Ballarat Rd, Sunshine

## SOUTHERN METROPOLITAN

<b>Moorabbin</b>	Tuesday 28 October	8:30 am – 11:15 am 1:00 pm – 3:45 pm 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm	The Edmund Barton Centre 488 South Rd, Moorabbin
<b>Cranbourne</b>	Monday 10 November	8:30 am – 11:15 am	Amstel Golf Club 1000 Cranbourne-Frankston Rd, Cranbourne
<b>Beaconsfield</b>	Tuesday 11 November	8:30 am – 11:15 am	Melaleuca Lodge Cnr Brunt Rd & Princes Hwy, Beaconsfield
<b>Frankston</b>	Tuesday 11 November	1:00 pm – 3:45 pm 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm	Frankston International Motel 389 Nepean Hwy, Frankston
<b>Mornington</b>	Thursday 27 November	8:30 am – 11:15 am	Flag Brooklands of Mornington 99 Tanti Avenue, Mornington
<b>Dandenong</b>	Thursday 27 November	1:00 pm – 3:45 pm 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm	Comfort Inn Imperial 124 Princes Hwy, Dandenong

## NORTHERN METROPOLITAN

<b>Eltham</b>	Thursday 23 October	8:30 am – 11:15 am 1:00 pm – 3:45 pm	Eltham Community & Reception Centre Cnr Main Rd & Pitt St, Eltham
<b>Preston</b>	Friday 24 October	8:30 am – 11:15 am 1:00 pm – 3:45 pm	Darebin Arts & Entertainment Centre Cnr Bell St & St Georges Rd, Preston
<b>Brunswick</b>	Tuesday 18 November	8:30 am – 11:15 am	Quality Hotel Laureate 441 Royal Pde, Parkville
<b>Tullamarine</b>	Tuesday 25 November	1:00 pm – 3:45 pm 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm	Flag Tullamarine Airport Motor Inn 265 Mickleham Rd, Tullamarine

**LODDON CAMPASPE MALLEE**

<b>Bendigo</b>	Friday 31 October	8:30 am – 11:15 am	Quality Resort All Seasons, 171–183 Mclvor Hwy, Bendigo
<b>Echuca</b>	Friday 31 October	1:00 pm – 3:45 pm	Quality Inn Port of Echuca 465 High St, Echuca
<b>Mildura</b>	Monday 17 November	8:30 am – 11:15 am	Quality Resort Rockford Mildura 373 Deakin Ave, Mildura
<b>Swan Hill</b>	Monday 17 November	4:00 pm – 6:30 pm	Flag Sundowner Swan Hill Resort 405 Campbell Street, Swan Hill
<b>Bendigo</b>	Tuesday 18 November	4:00 pm – 6:30 pm	Quality Resort All Seasons, 171–183 Mclvor Hwy, Bendigo
<b>Kyneton</b>	Tuesday 25 November	8:30 am – 11:15 am	Kyneton Town Hall (upstairs room) 129 Mollison St, Kyneton

**GOULBURN NORTH EASTERN**

<b>Seymour</b>	Wednesday 29 October	8:30 am – 11:15 am	Trawool Valley Resort, Goulburn Valley Hwy, Trawool
<b>Shepparton</b>	Wednesday 29 October	1:00 pm – 3:45 pm 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm	Flag Park Lake Motor Inn 481 Wyndham St, Shepparton
<b>Wangaratta</b>	Friday 21 November	8:30 am – 11:15 am	Quality Hotel Wangaratta Gateway 29–37 Ryley Street, Wangaratta
<b>Wodonga</b>	Friday 21 November	1:00 pm – 3:45 pm	Farmhouse Restaurant 203 Melbourne Rd, Wodonga

**GIPPSLAND**

<b>Wonthaggi</b>	Wednesday 5 November	8:30 am – 11:15 am	Wonthaggi Workingman's Club, 75 Graham St, Wonthaggi
<b>Moe</b>	Wednesday 5 November	1:00 pm – 3:45 pm 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm	Moe Regional Office Cnr Kirk & Haigh Sts, Moe
<b>Lakes Entrance</b>	Monday 24 November	8:30 am – 11:15 am	Quality Inn Bellevue 191–207 Esplanade, Lakes Entrance
<b>Sale</b>	Monday 24 November	1:00 pm – 3:45 pm	Comfort Inn Princeton 25–41 Princes Hwy, Sale

**EASTERN METROPOLITAN**

<b>Doncaster</b>	Thursday 30 October	8:30 am – 11:15 am	Quest on Doncaster Road, 855 Doncaster Rd, Doncaster
<b>Hawthorn</b>	Thursday 30 October	1:00 pm – 3:45 pm 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm	Melbourne University Private (Hawthorn Campus) 442 Auburn Rd, Hawthorn East
<b>Mt Evelyn</b>	Friday 7 November	8:30 am – 11:15 am 1:00 pm – 3:45 pm	Taverner York on Lilydale Cnr York & Swansea Rds, Mt Evelyn
<b>Whealers Hill</b>	Wednesday 19 November	8:30 am – 11:15 am 1:00 pm – 3:45 pm 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm	Whealers Hill International Motor Inn 242 Jells Rd, Wheelers Hill
<b>Forest Hill</b>	Wednesday 26 November	8:30 am – 11:15 am 1:00 pm – 3:45 pm	Clarion Hotel on Canterbury 326 Canterbury Rd, Forest Hill

**CENTRAL HIGHLANDS WIMMERA**

<b>Ararat</b>	Monday 27 October	8:30 am – 11:15 am	Country Kitchen, 330 Barkly St, Ararat
<b>Ballarat</b>	Monday 27 October	1:00 pm – 3:45 pm 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm	Sovereign Park Motor Inn 223 Main Rd, Ballarat
<b>Horsham</b>	Friday 14 November	8:30 am – 11:15 am	Victoria Institute for Dryland Agriculture (VIDA) 110 Natimuk Rd, Horsham

# The Arts Music Annotated Work Samples PD Program

Following the distribution of the Music Annotated Work Samples in early October, the VCAA will conduct a number of workshops across the state during Term 4 to support their use.

Workshops will focus on:

- features of the resource
- using information and communications technology in a music classroom
- integrating a range of approaches to teaching and learning within a school music program
- ways of using the materials for planning, assessment and reporting
- developing new assessment tasks.

Information about the program, including a registration form, will be sent to Principals in September. They will also be available on the website.

LOCATION	DATE	SESSION TIME	VENUE
<b>Traralgon</b>	Monday 13 October	9:30 am – 3:00 pm	Latrobe Motel & Convention Centre Princes Highway, Traralgon Ph: 5721 8399 RACV Country map: 342 C10.
<b>Ballarat</b>	Tuesday 14 October	9:30 am – 3:00 pm	Sovereign Park Motor Inn 223 Main Road, Ballarat Ph: 5331 3955 RACV Country map: 257 O13
<b>Wantirna</b>	Friday 17 October	9:30 am – 3:00 pm	Quest Knox 137 Mountain Hwy Wantirna VIC 3152 Ph: (03) 9801 6044 Melway map: 63 E7
<b>Horsham</b>	Monday 20 October	9:30 am – 3:00 pm	Longerenong College Longerenong Rd, Dooen Ph: 5362 2222 RACV Country map: 40 F4
<b>Dingley</b>	Thursday 23 October	9:30 am – 3:00 pm	Dingley International Hotel 334–348 Boundary Road Dingley Ph: (03) 9551 8344 Melway map: 88 A5
<b>Geelong</b>	Thursday 23 October	9:30 am – 3:00 pm	Deakin Management Centre. Deakin Uni – off Pigdons Road, Waurnd Ponds RACV Country map: 464 G6
<b>Ivanhoe</b>	Friday 24 October	9:30 am – 3:00 pm	The Centre Ivanhoe 275 Upper Heidelberg Rd Ivanhoe Ph: (03) 9490 4300 Melway map: 31 F7
<b>Sunshine</b>	Monday 27 October	9:30 am – 3:00 pm	Victoria University of Technology Sunshine Conference Centre 460 Ballarat Rd, Sunshine Ph: (03) 9284 7100 Melway map: 26 J10
<b>Mildura</b>	Tuesday 28 October	10:00 am. – 3:00 pm	Grand Hotel Seventh Street, Mildura Ph: 5023 0511 RACV Country map: 203 O4
<b>Warrnambool</b>	Wednesday 29 October	9:30 am – 3:00 pm	Flag Sundowner Warrnambool Mid City 525 Raglan Parade Warrnambool RACV Country map: 241 M8
<b>Bendigo</b>	Friday 31 October	9:30 am – 3:00 pm	All Seasons Flag 171–183 McIvor Road, Bendigo Ph: 5443 8166 RACV Country map: 283 R14
<b>Shepparton</b>	Thursday 6 November	9:30 am – 3:00 pm	Park Lake Motor Inn Wyndham Street, Shepparton Ph: 5821 5822 RACV Country map: 273 L11
<b>Wangaratta</b>	Friday 7 November	9:30 am – 3:00 pm	The Gateway Motel 29–37 Ryley Street, Wangaratta Ph: 5721 8399 RACV Country map: 313 M5

# The Arts: Music Annotated Work Samples

The VCAA will soon distribute to schools *The Arts: Music Annotated Work Samples*, the final in a series of publications across the key learning areas. This resource is designed to help teachers develop a common understanding of student achievement against CSF standards by providing clear samples of student

- a description of the context for the assessment task
- student work which is typical of the kinds of responses students produce when they are working at the level
- annotations which identify attributes of the work linked to a specific learning outcome or indicator.

Student work is presented in audio, video, text and visual formats. The CD-ROM also includes:

- detailed descriptions of assessment tasks, suggested teaching and learning activities and assessment guides
- associated resources including sound files, scores and Internet links.



**For further information about the PD program or CD-ROM contact:**

Helen Champion (03) 9651 4668 or email: [champion.helen.h@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:champion.helen.h@edumail.vic.gov.au)

**For a registration form contact:**

Tony Norman (03) 9651 4671 or email: [norman.anthony.e@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:norman.anthony.e@edumail.vic.gov.au)

work at various levels of achievement. Published on CD-ROM, the work samples focus on the Music strand of the Arts CSF at levels 4, 5 and 6 and are based on six approaches to teaching and learning. Each approach draws on learning outcomes from both the Arts practice and the Responding to the arts substrands in the Music CSF.

Each work sample includes:

- a list of task specific learning outcomes and indicators

## Annotated Work Samples PD in Other Key Learning Areas

In 2003, the VCAA conducted Professional Development programs to support teachers in the use of the Annotated Work Samples in English, Mathematics, SOSE, Health and Physical Education, Technology, Science and LOTE. The materials used in these workshops have been

distributed to schools and can be downloaded from the VCAA website at: [www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/csrf/WorkSamples/websiteinfo.htm](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/csrf/WorkSamples/websiteinfo.htm)

## Australian Maths Competition

### New date

After discussions with the VCAA the Australian Mathematics Trust has moved the date of the 2004 Australian Mathematics Competition for Westpac Awards to Thursday 29 July 2003.

The Australian Mathematics Competition for Westpac Awards has been conducted since 1978 and has involved hundreds of thousands of students in the annual competition.

More information and entry details can be found at: [www.amt.canberra.edu.au](http://www.amt.canberra.edu.au)

## VCAA Plain English Speaking Award

In 2003 the VCAA coordinated the VCAA Plain English Speaking Award which is open to students aged 15 to 18 years in Victorian schools. Teachers of Years 9 and 10 students can use the Award as a context for developing and assessing student skills in the CSF English Speaking and Listening strand. This year's national winner was Jason Rushton, a Year 10 student from New South Wales and the runner-up was Julien du Vergier from Victoria. More information about the Plain English Speaking Award can be found in the VCAA Bulletin and on the VCAA website: [www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/awards/plainEng/index.htm](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/awards/plainEng/index.htm)

**For further information contact:**  
VCAA Information Services  
(03) 9651 4544.



Level 4 students performing *Stars Behaving Badly*

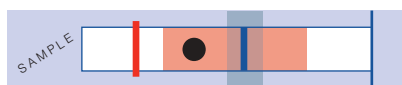


Level 5 students performing *Tomalon*

# National Benchmarks

The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) conducts its own literacy and numeracy tests annually. The main purpose and function of the Achievement Improvement Monitor (AIM) testing is to monitor student performance against the curriculum, across the full range of student ability.

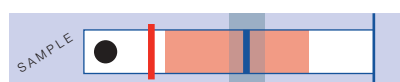
For the first time in Victoria, results from the 2003 AIM tests for Year 3 and Year 5 will be reported against national benchmarks. The position of each benchmark for literacy and numeracy will be shown on the scale used for each student's report as a vertical solid red line. You will see the benchmark line toward the left of each scale. The benchmark for spelling has not yet been determined.



The national benchmarks articulate nationally agreed minimum standards in literacy and numeracy. Benchmarks are not tests – they are a set of indicators or descriptors which represent minimum acceptable standards for literacy and numeracy at a particular year level. A 'minimum acceptable standard' means the level of skill and knowledge required to progress with the next stage of learning.

National benchmarks have been set for Year 3 and Year 5. These national benchmarks represent increasing levels of proficiency on a continuum of achievement. The Year 3 national benchmark is located in the early part of the achievement continuum, with the Year 5 national benchmarks at progressively higher levels. National benchmarks for Year 7 are under development.

Students who fail to achieve the national benchmark standard are likely to be at risk of not making sufficient progress at school.



If the black circle representing the student's achievement is to the left of the benchmark, the message is clear: unless significant improvement occurs, the child is likely to require additional assistance in their learning. In this case it would be wise to discuss the child's progress with parents.

National benchmark information helps educators to monitor change, including improvements, in student performance over time. Schools are able to use this information to assist them in planning, evaluating and developing their teaching and learning programs. National benchmarks also enable education authorities to provide objective information to parents and caregivers about children's achievement in relation to national standards.

National benchmark achievement for Victorian students is derived from the results of the AIM testing program. Each State and Territory's performance against the national benchmarks is published annually in the *National Report on Schooling in Australia*. Victoria's performance against the national benchmarks is at or above the Australian average.

It is important to realise that no single test can give a complete picture of an individual student's achievement. Sometimes students perform poorly on tests because they are distracted, or even because the test did not seem important to them at the time. In discussing benchmark results with parents, teachers should talk about whether this represents a typical level of performance for the student. Most students will perform above the national benchmark level. Where this is the case, parents will want to assess their children's performance in relation to expected levels for that year.

## For further information about AIM refer to:

- P–10 Assessment Unit  
[www.vcaa.vic.edu.au](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au)
- AIM Online  
[www.aimonline.vic.edu.au](http://www.aimonline.vic.edu.au)
- Years 3, 5 and 7 Testing  
Information Line **1800 648 637**

This is a toll free telephone service to assist schools with queries about AIM testing. It operates from 8.30 am to 5.00 pm Monday to Friday and as a message service outside business hours.

Email HelpDesk  
[vcaa.aim.help@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:vcaa.aim.help@edumail.vic.gov.au)

This P–10 Supplement is an adjunct of the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) Bulletin. The VCAA BULLETIN is a monthly publication (excluding January) carrying information and administrative advice about the Victorian Certificate of Education and the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning.

For subscriptions to the VCAA BULLETIN go to: [www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/forms/VCE/bulletin.htm](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/forms/VCE/bulletin.htm)

The VCAA BULLETIN and Supplements are also available online at: [www.vcaa.vic.edu.au](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au)

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