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## Minister Morand launches the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework

The Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (VEYLD) for all children from birth to eight years was launched by Minister Morand on 27 November 2009.

The Victorian Framework recognises that children's learning and development takes place in the context of their families, and that families are children's first and most important educators. Families provide children with the relationships, the opportunities and the experiences that shape their learning and development.

The Victorian Framework acknowledges that the families and communities in which children live are diverse, and children's learning and development is enhanced when early childhood professionals respect their cultures and ways of knowing and being.

In particular, the Victorian Framework recognises and respects Aboriginal cultures and the unique place of these in Victoria's heritage and future. Learning about valuing the place of first nations people will enhance all Victorian children's sense of place in our community.

The Victorian Framework describes five Learning and Development Outcomes for children from birth to eight years, linking the learning outcomes from the *Early Years Learning Framework for Australia* to the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS) Levels 1 and 2. The outcomes provide a shared language for all early childhood professionals and families to use when planning for children's learning and development.

The VEYLD can be accessed at [www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/earlyyears/](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/earlyyears/)



## Trial and validation of the VEYLDF

### 10 August – 23 October 2009

The key elements of the trial were:

- regional information sessions
- focus groups
- online discussion and surveys
- participation by 42 trial sites from early childhood services and schools.

### Regional information sessions

Thirty-three sessions were held state-wide in all regions. The VCAA Early Years team supported by colleagues from DEECD presented on the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Reform Agenda – VEYLDF and Transition: A positive Start to School. The sessions were attended by 2500 early years' professionals from a wide range of settings.

### Focus groups

Consultations took place with Family Focus groups from Early Years Trial sites, Graduate students from the University of Melbourne, Maternal and Child Health Nurse Coordinators, Supported Playgroup Coordinators, Bachelor of Early Childhood Education and Cultural Organisations.

### Trial sites

Forty-two trial sites participated in the trial and validation. Twenty-one sites were from the VEYLDF Practitioner Advisory Group and a further 21 were from early years sites. Overall the sites represented:

- 18 funded kindergartens (two early intervention services)
- ten long-day day care (eight community managed, two are privately owned and two Aboriginal services)

- 13 primary schools (nine government, two Catholic, one independent and one special school)
- three family day care
- three out-of-school-hours care services
- one occasional care service.

### Online surveys

Online surveys were developed for:

- managers and principals in early years settings
- early years practitioners and teachers in early years settings and primary schools
- peak bodies and organisations, including:
  - universities (Deakin, Swinburne, RMIT, Melbourne)
  - Institute of Education at the Royal Children's Hospital
  - Kindergarten Parents Victoria
  - Melton Shire Council
  - Kidsafe
  - Community Child Care
  - Kids – 'Go for your life' managed by Cancer Council Victoria and Diabetes Australia – Victoria
- families
- students currently enrolled in an early years course.

### Trial and validation Report

The VCAA has commissioned external consultants to analyse the range of feedback provided. A full report on the trial and validation findings is being prepared by Dr Delwyn Goodrick and Dr Gordon Emmerson.

The trial and validation informed the redraft of the VEYLDF. Implementation of the Framework in early years services and schools will begin in 2010.

# National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)

## Feedback survey 2009

The VCAA wishes to thank the 1973 schools who took the time to complete the feedback survey. The purpose of the survey was to gather feedback from schools on various aspects of NAPLAN 2009 administration and covered items related to six broad areas including – communication, the VCAA Helpdesk, the VCAA NAPLAN website, NAPLAN publications, the NAPLAN Registration Website and test materials. The information gathered will assist the VCAA with its annual review of the program and to support planning for future improvements.

Overall, the outcome of the survey was very positive and the evaluation of the data collected generally indicates that the services and information supplied by the VCAA are meeting the needs of schools. The P-10 Assessment Unit will use the survey results as one of the foundations for planning for NAPLAN 2010 and beyond.

## NAPLAN 2008 and 2009 tests – correct answers

Please note that the correct answers to the 2008 and 2009 NAPLAN tests for Language Conventions, Reading and Numeracy for all year levels are now available on the NAPLAN Test Papers page <<http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/prep10/naplan/testing/testpapers.html>>. For example:

### Reading Test Booklets

2008 (PDF – 250 KB)

2008 Correct Answers (PDF – 164 KB)

2009 (PDF – 242 KB)

2009 Correct Answers (PDF – 110 KB)

## 2009 Data Service

### Professional development workshops

Philip Holmes-Smith again conducted the VCAA's series of NAPLAN Data Service professional development workshops. These workshops commenced in October and continued through into early December at venues across the state.

Over 2700 school personnel attended the workshops and the reaction of participants has again been extremely positive. Here is a small selection of comments from the evaluations already completed:

*'The best two hours I've spent at a PD in months.'*

*'Every teacher must learn how best to use this data.'*

*'I have already put the PD into practice most successfully and have passed on my knowledge to my team.'*

*'I love how the presenter focused on the kids and how the data can help us teach them better.'*

*'Many practical ideas!'*

## NAPLAN 2010 timetable

### Year 3

Test	Date 2010	Test session time	Introduction and practice questions	Test time allocation
Language Conventions	Tuesday 11 May	Before recess	10 minutes	40 minutes
Writing	Tuesday 11 May	Before lunch	15 minutes	40 minutes
Reading	Wednesday 12 May	Before recess	10 minutes	45 minutes
Numeracy	Thursday 13 May	Before recess	10 minutes	45 minutes

### Year 5

Test	Date 2010	Test session time	Introduction and practice questions	Test time allocation
Language Conventions	Tuesday 11 May	Before recess	10 minutes	40 minutes
Writing	Tuesday 11 May	Before lunch	15 minutes	40 minutes
Reading	Wednesday 12 May	Before recess	10 minutes	50 minutes
Numeracy	Thursday 13 May	Before recess	10 minutes	50 minutes

### Year 7

Test	Date 2010	Test session time	Introduction and practice questions	Test time allocation
Language Conventions	Tuesday 11 May	Before recess	10 minutes	45 minutes
Writing	Tuesday 11 May	Before lunch	15 minutes	40 minutes
Reading	Wednesday 12 May	Before recess	10 minutes	65 minutes
Numeracy (calculator)	Thursday 13 May	Before recess	10 minutes	40 minutes
Numeracy (non calculator)	Thursday 13 May	Before lunch	10 minutes	40 minutes

### Year 9

Test	Date 2010	Test session time	Introduction and practice questions	Test time allocation
Language Conventions	Tuesday 11 May	Before recess	10 minutes	45 minutes
Writing	Tuesday 11 May	Before lunch	15 minutes	40 minutes
Reading	Wednesday 12 May	Before recess	10 minutes	65 minutes
Numeracy (calculator)	Thursday 13 May	Before recess	10 minutes	40 minutes
Numeracy (non calculator)	Thursday 13 May	Before lunch	10 minutes	40 minutes

**Note:** While the school may choose the most appropriate starting time for each session, the order of the sessions and the number of tests per day cannot be varied.

The VCAA will notify schools as soon as possible if any changes are made to these dates.

## Student registration for NAPLAN tests 2010

Students undertaking the NAPLAN 2010 tests will be registered via a pre-enrolment process prior to the tests. Pre-enrolment allows individual student details to be printed on test booklets and provides significant efficiencies in the administration of the tests at the school level and in the processing of test results.

As in previous years, the following processes will apply for NAPLAN test pre-enrolment for Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 students.

**Government schools:** All students at government schools will be pre-enrolled in the NAPLAN tests based on their enrolment status on the CASES21 system as of the 2010 February School Census Day. Government schools do not have to manually upload their enrolment data.

**Catholic schools:** The Catholic Education Office Melbourne (CEOM) will collect and provide student registration information to the VCAA on behalf of all Catholic schools, as part of their 2010 February school census process.

**Independent schools:** Independent schools will be required to upload data files via a secure website directly to the VCAA. This process will take place during February 2010.

Further details regarding student registration and pre-enrolment processes will be provided in a letter that will be sent to schools early in Term 1 2010.

## Principals' and Coordinators' NAPLAN 2010 package

Please be advised that the Principals' and NAPLAN Coordinators' package will be sent to schools early in Term 1, 2010. Included in the package is the *Principals' and NAPLAN Coordinators' Guide* which is provided in advance of the distribution of the test packages to enable the principal and the NAPLAN coordinator to become familiar with the responsibilities and protocols for administration of the NAPLAN tests.

Also included will be the *Test Administration Website Guide* which provides instructions for completing a variety of administrative tasks for NAPLAN 2010.

## Requests to vary 2010 test dates

In 2010, NAPLAN tests will take place from **11–13 May** and schools with compelling reasons will be able to request permission to participate in the tests in the week after testing to Friday 21 May 2010.

The compelling reasons must be of a serious order and could, for example, include cases where a school has booked an overseas excursion where the dates cannot be changed, or where schools are expected to participate in state-based activities such as Show days.

This option is only available for classes or groups and **not** individual students.

Individual students will not be able to undertake catch-up tests in the week following the national tests. They may undertake catch-up tests on the days in the test week, i.e. 11 to 14 May 2009.

Schools that need to vary their NAPLAN 2010 test dates for classes or groups of students will be required to complete a **Request to Vary Dates** form. Government schools must apply to their Regional Director or Assistant Regional Director prior to applying to the VCAA for a variation. Catholic schools should send the form to the appropriate Catholic Education Office Regional Manager for approval. Independent schools may fax the form directly to the VCAA for consideration. This form will be available in the *Principals' and NAPLAN Coordinators' Guide* which will be distributed to schools early in Term 1 2010.

Tests must **not** be conducted prior to the published test date under any circumstances.

## Combined test booklets

To reduce the administrative burden on schools in relation to the handling and sorting of tests booklets, once again the NAPLAN Language Conventions and Writing tests for all year levels will be combined into a single test booklet. Years 7 and 9 calculator and non-calculator Numeracy tests will also be combined.

For schools, this means that there is only one test booklet per day during the testing period. These tests will be combined in a 'flip' book format, with one test starting from the front and the other from the back. The test in the back of the booklet is rotated through 180° so that the page opens with the spine edge on the left side.

## Management of NAPLAN

The 2008 and 2009 National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) was managed by Curriculum Corporation, as the legal entity for the Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs (MCEECDYA). Under this arrangement, Curriculum Corporation was licensed to use national data to generate the results for National Reports – Achievement in Literacy and Numeracy. With the establishment of the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA), responsibility for the ongoing management and development of NAPLAN and the generation of national school reporting has been transferred from former MCEECDYA bodies to ACARA.

The Victorian Minister for Education has recently agreed to the transfer of Victoria's 2008 and 2009 NAPLAN data from the custodianship of Curriculum Corporation to the custodianship of ACARA. She has also endorsed the transfer of the total national 2008 and 2009 NAPLAN data from the Curriculum Corporation to ACARA.

This change of governance will make little difference to future NAPLAN testing and reporting as far as schools are concerned. In Victoria, the VCAA will continue to be the Test Administration Authority for NAPLAN but will in future supply NAPLAN data to ACARA instead of to Curriculum Corporation. The provision of the data to ACARA is consistent with Section 32 of the National Education Agreement, to which all jurisdictions and the Catholic and Independent schools are parties.

# On Demand Assessment Program

## Expansion of Computer Adaptive Testing – Term 4 school trials

The VCAA is developing items to top up the Computer Adaptive Tests (CATs). While most of new items are targeted at VELTS 5 to 6 Extended, there will also be some items targeted at the lower years to consolidate the item pool for VELTS 2 to 4.

To ensure the validity of the new items and to determine their difficulty level, the VCAA conducted online item trials between **19 October and 19 November 2009**. A total of 43 new trial tests (17 English and 26 Mathematics) were made available in the On Demand system for the trial. The response from schools across the state for this important assessment initiative was strong and the VCAA wishes to thank all the participating government and non-government schools for donating their time and resources freely to make this trial a success.

The VCAA will analyse the item data in December and the calibrated new items will be integrated into the On Demand program for use in 2010.

## Professional Development and Teacher Training Guide

This year was a busy one for the Administrative Support Unit with professional development sessions conducted over 19 half days in twelve metropolitan and regional centres. A total of 585 participants from 356 schools attended these training programs which were very well received. The first round of On Demand professional development sessions for 2010 will be delivered in April and May. Details of dates and venues will be communicated to schools during March 2010.

The *On Demand Teacher Training Guide* which is used for the professional development sessions is available from the VCAA website at: [www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/vcaa/prep10/aim/ondemand/doco/ondteachertrainingguide.pdf](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/vcaa/prep10/aim/ondemand/doco/ondteachertrainingguide.pdf)

## Scheduled Maintenance

The VCAA On Demand Central Server will be unavailable from **Monday 14 December 2009 to Friday 22 January 2010** in order to enable the VCAA to carry out system maintenance for the On Demand program. During this period there will be no access to On Demand to download tests to school servers. **The On Demand program on school servers will not be affected by this down-time.** Teachers can continue to use the On Demand program's testing and reporting functions within schools. During the maintenance period the new Computer Adaptive Testing items trialled in October and November 2009 will be integrated into the On Demand system to expand its testing capabilities in 2010.

## Sign up

The VCAA Assessment Online On Demand Testing system is provided free to both Victorian Government and non-government schools via the Internet. If your school is not registered to use On Demand you can sign up at <<https://registration.vcaa.vic.edu.au/school/eoilogin.asp>> and the On Demand Help Desk team will help you with information about installation of the program on your school server.

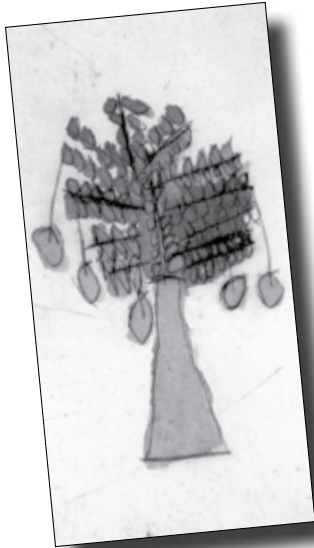
Schools will need their VCAA five-digit school code to request access to On Demand via the Internet. Alternatively, contact the On Demand Testing Helpdesk on: Freecall 1800 827 721 or email school details to: [vcaa.ondemand.support@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:vcaa.ondemand.support@edumail.vic.gov.au)

## Contacts

Any queries regarding On Demand Testing should be directed to the **VCAA Administrative Support Unit** on **1800 827 721** or **(03) 9651 4482**. Please leave a message on the Voice Mail service if your call is not answered immediately. Alternatively fax enquiries to **(03) 9651 4551** or email: [vcaa.ondemand.support@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:vcaa.ondemand.support@edumail.vic.gov.au)

Further information regarding On Demand Testing may be obtained from the VCAA website at the following link: [www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/prep10/aim/ondemand/index.html](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/prep10/aim/ondemand/index.html)

## VCAA Christmas card



The VCAA Christmas card provides an opportunity for the organisation to work with schools and young people in developing a new design each year. For many years artwork from the VCE Season of Excellence Top Arts exhibition featured on the card. In recent years the VCAA has approached primary schools in metropolitan and regional Victoria and has been delighted with the ideas produced by younger students.

This year the VCAA invited Sunshine Special Developmental School to provide a choice of artworks for the VCAA Christmas Card. Art teacher Heath Lander has established a reputation for exhibiting the SSDS students' work in public spaces. The image selected for the card was on display at Mario's Café and was one of many works developed as part of the Artists in Schools program, a partnership between the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and Arts Victoria with support from the Community Support Fund.

Printmaker Clare Whitney worked with the students over the year to develop their fine-motor skills, teaching them to scratch an image, put it in a printing press and create their own etchings. David Samaan's image of a tree, entitled 'Tree Me', is the one chosen by the VCAA this year for its Christmas card.



## Writing Test Markers Required for 2010

### National Assessment Program, Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)

The VCAA is responsible for the implementation of NAPLAN testing in Victoria. The NAPLAN **Writing** test for Victorian students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will be held on **Tuesday 11 May 2010**. The VCAA is seeking applications from current and retired teachers to participate in this challenging and important project.

#### Online marking

Markers have the option of marking online at metropolitan marking centres in Nunawading and Coburg or from home during the evening or day. Non-metropolitan teachers with home broadband internet connection are welcome to apply.

#### A great professional development opportunity

In addition to the rich and rewarding experience gained from reading and evaluating a wide range of writing from across the state and across sectors, markers participate in VCAA training sessions which help meet standards of professional practice required by the Victorian Institute of Teaching.

#### Training requirement

The VCAA expects to hold new marker training sessions at the VCAA Coburg Assessment Centre on Saturday 8 May 2010. New and experienced markers are also required to attend one-day training on Saturday 15, **or** Sunday 16 **or** Monday 17 May. All applicants should ensure that they are available on the training dates, and throughout the marking period.

#### Marking commitment

Marking of the NAPLAN writing test will take approximately 23 days, beginning on 18 May and concluding around 8 June. Markers must commit to an average of four hours marking each day for day session markers and three hours each day for evening markers.

#### Appointment criteria

New markers are appointed on the basis of their teaching experience and other relevant experience such as participation in large scale marking projects. Experienced NAPLAN markers are reappointed each year on the basis of their marking accuracy and demonstrated commitment to the marking project.

All marking appointments are for the duration of the 2010 marking project only.

#### How to apply

Applications may **only** be completed online through the SSMS system. Applicants should go to the SSMS website at: [www.ssms.vic.edu.au](http://www.ssms.vic.edu.au)

Applications opened on **Monday 26 October 2009** and will close on **1 March 2010** or when the marker quota is filled.

## October 2008 to October 2009

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## DISTRIBUTION: 24 SEPTEMBER 2009 TO 18 NOVEMBER 2009

### Victorian essential Learning Standards

<http://vels.vcaa.vic.edu.au>

### Internet

#### Health and Physical Education

Taking the VELS Outdoors: Meeting the VELS through Outdoor Education

### Assessment Maps (Annotated work samples)

Science

- 5.25 – Household cleaning products
- 5.5 – The Chemistry of Cleaning

### National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy

[www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/prep10/index.html](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/prep10/index.html)

# 2010 VCAA CALENDARS

Copies of the 2010 VCAA calendars were mailed to schools in late November.

The calendars provide key VCAA administrative dates and list information about the VCAA's program of exhibitions and awards for the year. The calendars may also be used to enter specific dates related to individual school activities.

Schools will receive one or more calendars at no cost. Further copies may be purchased over the counter from Information Victoria or may be ordered through Information Victoria at a charge of \$2.50 each, plus postage and handling.

Calendars will be supplied folded rather than in flat sheet size, reducing postage costs when ordering by mail.

## Calendars are available after 23 November from:

### Information Victoria

505 Little Collins Street, Melbourne  
Open from 8.30 am to 5.30 pm  
(Monday to Friday)

Telephone: 1300 366 356  
Fax: (03) 9603 9920

Email: [bookshop@diird.vic.gov.au](mailto:bookshop@diird.vic.gov.au)  
Website: [www.bookshop.vic.gov.au](http://www.bookshop.vic.gov.au)



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The VCAA Bulletin is also available online at: [www.vcaa.vic.edu.au](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au)

Victorian schools only may photocopy this publication for use by teachers and students.

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[www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/correspondence/bulletins/bullsubscription.html](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/correspondence/bulletins/bullsubscription.html) or contact the VCAA on (03) 9651 4326.

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