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Inside the VCAA

The VCAA undertakes a wide range of activities to assist teachers and schools with curriculum planning, assessment and reporting. The following is an overview of our activities:

Early Years Unit

The Early Years Learning Unit manages, in partnership with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD), the development and implementation of the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework, including the bridge between the national Early Years Learning

Framework (0-5) and the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS). The Early Years Unit can assist you with questions about:

- The Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework
- Trialling and evaluation sites

Tel: (03) 9651 4334

The Early Years Unit works in developing the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework. During Semester 1 2009, the Unit will trial

and evaluate the draft framework. Validation of the framework will occur towards the end of 2009 with full implementation by the start of the 2010 school year.

Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS) Unit

The VELS Unit is responsible for the development of the VELS for Prep to Year 10 and provision of resources to support their implementation. The VELS Unit can assist you with questions about:

- the VELS
- teaching and learning support for the VELS
- implementation strategies for the VELS

- assessment of student achievement especially using progression points and student work samples
- inquiries about Communication, Thinking Processes, Personal Learning and Interpersonal Development domains

Tel: (03) 9651 4410

Email: vcaa.curriculum@edumail.vic.gov.au

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

The VELS Unit's work involves providing curriculum and assessment support to teachers and schools to assist them in developing teaching and assessment programs based on the VELS. This involves answering inquiries by phone or email, by providing a wide range of resources on the VELS website, and through the provision of professional development activities.

A large proportion of the Unit's work is undertaken in collaboration with teachers from across Victoria. This involvement with

teachers helps to ensure that the resources produced are relevant and meet the diverse needs of teachers and schools.

In 2009, the Unit is organising a range of events to engage directly with teachers and schools to promote the resources available on the VELS and DEECD websites, provide professional development about using the VELS, receive feedback on the implementation of the VELS, and to respond with advice to assist schools in implementing the VELS more effectively.

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NAPLAN 2009 timetable

Year 3

Test	Date 2009	Test session time	Introduction and practice questions	Test time allocation
Language Conventions	Tuesday 12 May	Before recess	10 minutes	40 minutes
Writing	Tuesday 12 May	Before lunch	15 minutes	40 minutes
Reading	Wednesday 13 May	Before recess	10 minutes	45 minutes
Numeracy	Thursday 14 May	Before recess	10 minutes	45 minutes

Year 5

Test	Date 2009	Test session time	Introduction and practice questions	Test time allocation
Language Conventions	Tuesday 12 May	Before recess	10 minutes	40 minutes
Writing	Tuesday 12 May	Before lunch	15 minutes	40 minutes
Reading	Wednesday 13 May	Before recess	10 minutes	50 minutes
Numeracy	Thursday 14 May	Before recess	10 minutes	50 minutes

Year 7

Test	Date 2009	Test session time	Introduction and practice questions	Test time allocation
Language Conventions	Tuesday 12 May	Before recess	10 minutes	45 minutes
Writing	Tuesday 12 May	Before lunch	15 minutes	40 minutes
Reading	Wednesday 13 May	Before recess	10 minutes	65 minutes
Numeracy (calculator)	Thursday 14 May	Before recess	10 minutes	40 minutes
Numeracy (non calculator)	Thursday 14 May	Before lunch	10 minutes	40 minutes

Year 9

Test	Date 2009	Test session time	Introduction and practice questions	Test time allocation
Language Conventions	Tuesday 12 May	Before recess	10 minutes	45 minutes
Writing	Tuesday 12 May	Before lunch	15 minutes	40 minutes
Reading	Wednesday 13 May	Before recess	10 minutes	65 minutes
Numeracy (calculator)	Thursday 14 May	Before recess	10 minutes	40 minutes
Numeracy (non calculator)	Thursday 14 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.

Key dates for NAPLAN 2009 Tests

Friday 20 February 2009	Final date for Student Registration
Monday 2 March 2009	Final date for School Address Verification
Monday 2 March 2009	Final date for Test Booklet Printing order preference
Friday 20 March 2009	Final date for Authorised Staff Registration
Friday 20 March 2009	Final date for Submission of the Statement of Compliance
Friday 20 March 2009	Final date for Schools to Request to Vary Dates
Friday 20 March 2009	Final date for Schools to Request Large Print and Braille Materials

Student registration for NAPLAN tests

Students undertaking the NAPLAN 2009 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.

In 2009, the following processes will apply for NAPLAN test pre-enrolment for Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 students.

- Government schools. As a result of an initiative between the DEECD and the VCAA, 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 2009 February School Census Day. This initiative means that government schools do not have to manually upload their enrolment data.
- Catholic schools. As in previous years, 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 2009 February school census process.
- Independent schools. As in previous years, independent schools will be required to upload data files via a secure web site directly to the VCAA. This process will take place during February 2009.

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 2009.

Writing Test markers required

The VCAA is seeking applications from current and retired teachers to participate in marking the NAPLAN Writing test in 2009.

Online marking

Markers have the option of marking online at metropolitan marking centers or from home during the evening or day. Non-metropolitan teachers with home broadband internet connection are also welcome to apply.

A great PD 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 compulsory 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 9 May 2009. New and experienced markers are also required to attend a one-day marker training session on either Saturday 16, Sunday 17 or Monday 18 May.

Marking commitment

Marking of the writing scripts is expected to take approximately 21 days, beginning on Tuesday 19 May and concluding on Wednesday 10 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.

Teachers applying for marking positions should ensure that they are available on the training dates, and throughout the marking period.

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

Applications open on Monday 27 October 2008 and close on 16 March 2009.

Further enquiries: contact the Assessment Services and Resources Unit on (03) 9225 2305.

Principals' and Coordinators' NAPLAN 2009 package

Please be advised that the Principals' and NAPLAN Coordinators' package will be sent to schools early in Term 1, 2009.

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 principles for administration of the NAPLAN tests.

Also included is the *Test Administration Website Guide* which provides instructions for completing administrative tasks for NAPLAN 2009.

The VCAA is also pleased to include in the package a DVD of the NAPLAN 2008 Data Service Professional Development Workshops. This DVD is designed to assist individual schools to interpret their NAPLAN data.

NAPLAN 2009 tests

Request to vary test dates

In 2009, NAPLAN tests will take place from 12–14 May. Schools with compelling reasons will be able to request permission to participate in the tests in the week after testing up to 22 May 2009. The compelling reasons must be of a serious nature 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 for individual students.

In 2009, individual students will not be able to undertake catch-up tests in the week following the national tests. They may, however, undertake catch-up tests on the days in the test week – that is, between 12 and 15 May 2009.

Schools that wish to vary their NAPLAN 2009 test dates for classes or groups of students will be required to complete a Request to Vary Dates form available in the *Principals' and NAPLAN Coordinators' Guide* and also on the VCAA website. 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.

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, the NAPLAN 2009 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.

VCAA Assessment Online

Online testing

On Demand pages on the VCAA website

The On Demand content on the VCAA website has been updated to coincide with the release of the Progress Tests. One new addition to the VCAA site is the Interpreting On Demand Reports document. On Demand support documentation is available at: www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/prep10/aim/ondemand/docodownload.html

On Demand contacts

Any queries regarding registration for On Demand testing should be directed to the Administrative Support Unit on 1800 827 721 or (03) 9651 4482. Please leave a message on the Voice Mail service if calls are not able to be answered immediately. Alternatively fax enquiries to (03) 9651 4551 or email: vcaa.ondemand.support@edumail.vic.gov.au

On Demand Professional Development 2009

The VCAA is currently planning its schedule for On Demand professional development sessions for 2009 and will inform schools when the dates are finalised. The first training session will be delivered in Term 1.

Aboriginal Languages standards

The VCAA is developing a set of standards for Aboriginal Languages as a sixth language category of the Languages Other Than English domain. These standards will support teachers of a range of Aboriginal languages to use the VELs to plan curriculum and assess student achievement. In 2008, extensive consultation with Indigenous communities around Victoria showed strong support for the development of these standards and also in developing a set of protocols to accompany these standards.

The teaching of Aboriginal languages will differ from other languages as no whole language survives in its entirety within Victoria. The focus will be on reviving and reclaiming the language in consultation with local communities. Indigenous Languages of Victoria: Revival and Reclamation has been a VCE study since 2004. The feedback from students who have completed this study has highlighted the positive role that reclaiming a language can have on the identity of Aboriginal students. The following is written by Kylie Kennedy who completed her VCE studies in 2008:

‘Language revival ... is an activity whose value can only be judged by the people participating in it.’ (*Australia’s Indigenous Languages*, 1996, Senior Secondary Assessment Board of South Australia, p. 183).

When I read that some people say language revival is not possible and that it’s a waste of resources, I reflected on how much the revival of Wergaia has meant to me. Firstly, I have regained a sense of connection to my extended family, where previously I didn’t know them as well as I do now, and I often didn’t feel comfortable with them because I didn’t know them. Secondly, I have learned a great deal to date about the culture of my ancestors, particularly about the way they viewed the world. So, I also feel a greater connection to my culture, and knowing what my culture is. Thirdly, I have a greater sense of who I am as an Indigenous person. Being a part of reviving Wergaia has given me an increased sense of self-esteem, it has also had influence in my life at home, at work and socially as well. At work, this has given me confidence to advocate on behalf of Indigenous community members for support and better access to support services through my workplace. Finally, no words can describe the joy I feel in my everyday life when Wergaia words automatically come to mind, for example, when I see a particular bird and I race home to tell someone ‘Nyainan buletyi gurrkali’ – and I didn’t need to look it up in the grammar, or come home after seeing something and wondering how to say it in Wergaia. I imagine the future, and how proud I will be to teach my children to speak Wergaia.

The standards, a set of protocols for teaching Aboriginal Languages and curriculum resources will be published progressively this year. For further Information about the Aboriginal Languages standards contact Maree Dellora on (03) 9651 4620 or email: dellora.maree.r@edumail.vic.gov.au

November 2007 to December 2008

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Victorian Essential Learning Standards

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

Sample units

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At the doctors – Interpersonal Development, LOTE, and ICT

Who are we? – Interpersonal Development, Mathematics, Communication and ICT

Level 5

Badminton tactics and strategies – Interpersonal Development, Mathematics and ICT

Leadership - then and now – Civics and Citizenship, The Humanities – History and Thinking Processes

Level 6

Solar house – Interpersonal Development, Mathematics and Thinking Processes

Visiting Vines – Personal Learning, Mathematics and Thinking Processes

Which part for me – The Humanities _ Economics, Thinking Processes and Communication

Assessment maps annotated work samples

HPE Levels 4.25, 5, 5.25, 5.5, 5.75

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– Planning Units

– Mapping Tools

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NAPLAN Data Service professional development workshops

The VCAA is pleased to offer extra workshops for principals, NAPLAN coordinators and teachers who have been unable to attend the 2008 sessions. These workshops will take place at various venues across the state and are free-of-charge to participants.

Please visit <www.sreams.com.au/home_page.html> to register.

NAPLAN Data Service Workshops

VENUE	Address	Date	Morning	Afternoon
Forest Hill	Clarion Hotel on Canterbury, Cnr Canterbury and Springvale Roads, Forest Hill	Monday 23 February	9:00–12:00	1:00–4:00
Traralgon	Quality Inn Latrobe Convention Centre, 5601 Princes Highway, Traralgon	Tuesday 24 February	9:00–12:00	1:00–4:00
Preston	Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre, Cnr Bell Street and St Georges Road, Preston	Thursday 26 February	9:00–12:00	1:00–4:00
Moorabbin	Hemisphere Conference Centre, 488 South Road, Moorabbin	Friday 27 February	9:00–12:00	1:00–4:00
Geelong	Geelong Conference Centre, Adams Court, Eastern Gardens, Geelong	Monday 2 March	9:00–12:00	1:00–4:00
Ballarat	Sovereign Park Motor Inn, 223 Main Road, Ballarat	Tuesday 3 March	9:00–12:00	1:00–4:00
Bendigo	Lakeview Resort, 286 Napier Street, Bendigo	Wednesday 4 March	9:00–12:00	1:00–4:00
Shepparton	Country Comfort Shepparton, 481 Wyndham Street, Shepparton	Thursday 5 March	9:00–12:00	1:00–4:00
Moonee Valley	Moonee Valley Racing Club, McPherson Street, Moonee Ponds	Friday 6 March	9:00–12:00	1:00–4:00

Program for International Student Assessment (PISA)

PISA is the world's largest school assessment survey and is an initiative of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The program surveys students aged about 15 years and assesses preparedness for adult life, with a focus on the skills necessary to cultivate life-long learning. Since 2000, Australia has participated in the three-yearly PISA assessment of the knowledge and skills of 15-year-olds in reading, mathematical and scientific literacy.

In 2009, PISA will take place between 23 July and 2 September and the major emphasis for the assessment will be on reading literacy.

Australia's participation in PISA has been endorsed by the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA) and is managed by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER).

Please note that PISA is part of the National Assessment Program, and as such there is an expectation that schools will participate unless there are exceptional circumstances. Schools selected to participate in PISA 2009 will be notified in Term 1 2009.

Learning Domains Unit

The Learning Domains Unit provides curriculum leadership and advice on Early Years to Year 12 curriculum and assessment matters. Curriculum Managers can assist you with questions about:

- domain specific inquiries

Curriculum Managers spend most of their time with the review and implementation of VCE study designs, Assessment Handbooks and Guides, and exam preparation.

Curriculum Managers also work in cooperation with subject associations and other organisations to provide advice

- implementation advice about the VELs domains
LOTE, DCT, ICT: (03) 9651 4339
Science, English, Mathematics: (03) 9651 4590
HPE, Arts, Civics and Citizenship, Humanities:
(03) 9651 4538

and deliver professional development sessions about applying the VELs effectively within their domain. They work in association with teachers to develop resources such as sample units and annotated work samples to support teaching and assessment based on the VELs.

P-10 Assessment Unit

The P-10 Assessment Unit is responsible for the administration of the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) in Victoria and also provides the On Demand Testing Program for Victorian schools.

The P-10 Assessment Unit can assist you with questions about:

- NAPLAN test administration, assessment, results and data analysis
- On demand testing resource

NAPLAN:

Tel: 1800 648 637

Email: VCAA.naplan.help@edumail.vic.gov.au

On Demand testing:

Tel: (03) 9651 4482

VCAA.ondemand.support@edumail.vic.gov.au

NAPLAN is an assessment program for all Australian students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9, testing knowledge and skills in Literacy and Numeracy. The results from NAPLAN tests provide an important measure of how Australian students are performing and provide information about student achievement which can be used to support teaching and learning programs.

The P-10 Assessment Unit is responsible for test item development, test construction and the marking of all tests undertaken by Victorian students and provides a secure web-based NAPLAN Data Service from which schools can access their individual school's NAPLAN results.

On Demand Testing is an online resource for teachers to use when, where and how they choose. Both computer adaptive and linear tests (including twelve Progress Tests released in December 2008) are provided. On Demand tests can be administered to individual students or whole classes or groups of students.

The On Demand testing program utilises the VCAA Assessment Online software, a decentralised computer-based system where schools download tests from the VCAA central server and distributes them via the school's Local Area Network (LAN).

VCAA Bulletin (VCAA Bulletin VCE, VCAL and VET; VCAA Bulletin P-10) is an official publication of the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority. Principals are advised to ensure that it is circulated among teaching staff. One copy should be filed for reference.

The VCAA Bulletin is also available online at: www.vcaa.vic.edu.au

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

The VCAA does not endorse the products or services of any notices published in the VCAA Bulletin.

Subscription to the VCAA Bulletin

A subscription form for the VCAA Bulletin is available on the VCAA website:

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

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