## VCAA NAPLAN Helpdesk

A Helpdesk service operates to assist principals and NAPLAN coordinators with queries about NAPLAN. For queries and/or assistance contact the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) on:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTACT DETAILS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freecall</td>
<td><strong>1800 648 637</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax</td>
<td><em>(03) 9225 2334</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:vcaa.naplan.help@edumail.vic.gov.au">vcaa.naplan.help@edumail.vic.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VCAA website</td>
<td><a href="http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au">www.vcaa.vic.edu.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>NAPLAN Test</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>website:</td>
<td><a href="https://www.naplanadmin.vic.edu.au">https://www.naplanadmin.vic.edu.au</a></td>
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## DATES FOR NAPLAN 2016 TESTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Subject</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 May</td>
<td>Literacy (Language Conventions, Writing)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 May</td>
<td>Literacy (Reading)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 May</td>
<td>Numeracy</td>
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</tbody>
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**PRINCIPAL AND NAPLAN COORDINATOR’S CHECKLIST**
**YEAR 3, YEAR 5, YEAR 7 AND YEAR 9 NAPLAN 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On receipt</td>
<td>Read this Handbook, paying particular attention to the administrative procedures and the responsibilities of principals and NAPLAN coordinators</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 January</td>
<td>NAPLAN Test Administration website open for the enrolment phase, see page 35</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 February</td>
<td>Final date for independent schools to submit student data to VCAA</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 February</td>
<td>Final date to submit Principals’ Statement of Compliance</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Final date to submit names of staff authorised to take delivery of test packages</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Final date to indicate test book print order and verify school details</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Final date to request alternative test formats</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Final date to request a variation to test dates</td>
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<tr>
<td>From 11 April</td>
<td>Review enrolments and produce forms as required via the NAPLAN Test Administration website</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Discuss parental requests for withdrawals, exemptions and disability adjustments and acquire signatures where applicable.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brief appropriate staff about the pending arrival of the NAPLAN test packages</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>From 26 April</td>
<td>Receive and check contents of the NAPLAN test packages against the packing slip. Record the name of the staff member who signs for receipt from the courier in the Test Materials Security Log</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Store all materials in double secure storage and complete the Test Materials Security Log</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Distribute the appropriate NAPLAN Test Administration Handbook for Teachers to test administrators</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conduct a briefing on test administration for test administrators</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 May</td>
<td>Final date to submit applications to use a scribe or assistive technology</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4 May</td>
<td>Where required, request extra materials from the VCAA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week of 9 May</td>
<td>On the day before each test, sort and collate test books and related stimulus materials in preparation for distribution to test administrators on test days. Ensure that test materials remain in double secure storage until distribution</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 May</td>
<td>Distribute Language Conventions and Writing test books and writing stimulus materials to test administrators</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conduct the Language Conventions and Writing tests</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 May</td>
<td>Distribute Reading test books and Reading magazines to test administrators</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conduct the Reading tests</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 May</td>
<td>Distribute Numeracy test books to test administrators</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conduct the Numeracy tests</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 May</td>
<td>Unless otherwise notified by the VCAA, completed test materials need to be ready for collection by 8.30 am on Monday 16 May</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Final date for catch-up tests by individual students</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 May</td>
<td>Final date to complete online student attendance</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 May</td>
<td>Final date to return test books for classes or groups which had approval for a variation to testing dates. End test security period.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

PLEASE ENSURE THAT A COPY OF THIS HANDBOOK IS GIVEN TO THE NAPLAN COORDINATOR.
# CONTENTS

Handbook overview 1

**PART A – National information from relevant sections of the National Protocols for Test Administration** 2

1. Introduction 2
2. Code of Conduct 3
3. Communications 5
4. Security and integrity of test materials 6
5. Student participation cohorts 8
6. Adjustments for students with disability 12
7. Preparing students for the test 21
8. Administering the tests 22
9. Marking 28
10. Breaches of test protocols 28
11. Definitions 30
12. Test administration authority contact details 32

**PART B – Implementation of the NAPLAN 2016 in Victoria** 33

Introduction 33
Privacy Policy Statement 33
Statement of Compliance (Summary) 34
Authorised staff 34
NAPLAN Coordinator 35
The NAPLAN Test Administration Website 35
Communicating with parents 36
Candidacy and student participation 36
Records of Exemptions and Student Withdrawals 37
Adjustments for students with disability 37
Accommodations that require pre-approval from the VCAA for disability adjustments 38
Large Print, Black and White, and Braille materials 39
Hosted and visiting students 39
Home-schooled students 40
Request to vary test dates for classes or groups of students 40
Delivery of the test packages 41
Security of test materials 42
Observation and audit visits to schools 42
Standard conditions for test supervision 43
Catch-up assessments for individual students 43
Collection of test materials 43
Student results 44

**Appendices** 45

Appendix 1: Statement of Compliance (Detailed) 45
Appendix 2: Sample letter to parents 47
Appendix 3: Request to Vary Dates 48
Appendix 4: Contact details for Regional Offices 2016 49
HANDBOOK OVERVIEW

The purpose of this Handbook for Principals is to make sure that principals and teachers understand what is required to administer the 2016 National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests. This handbook is designed for principals, who have ultimate responsibility within their school for ensuring that the tests are appropriately administered. Principals are expected to ensure that all relevant information is conveyed in a timely manner to all staff members involved in the administration of NAPLAN tests at the school.

There are two parts to this handbook:

- Part A: Relevant sections of National Protocols for Test Administration from ACARA, including the code of conduct. These protocols apply to all schools in Australia.

- Part B: State or territory operational information and instructions.

Principals and test administrators should not assume that what they have done in the past complies with the testing requirements for this year’s tests.

For further information, the Handbook for Principals for each jurisdiction may be viewed online at the relevant test administration authority websites.
PART A: National information from relevant sections of the \textit{National Protocols for Test Administration}

1 INTRODUCTION

NAPLAN tests are held during May each year. The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) has responsibility for the development and central management of the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). The test administration authority (TAA) in each state or territory is responsible for the administration of the tests in their jurisdiction. All states and territories administer the tests in accordance with nationally agreed protocols.

The \textit{National Protocols for Test Administration} (the ‘protocols’) provide detailed information on all aspects of the administration of the tests. The protocols manage security of the tests, the test environment and other relevant factors to ensure reliable, nationally comparable results are obtained. The protocols specify security requirements and uniform processes and procedures to ensure students complete the tests under similar conditions. In cases where individual students require special arrangements to complete the tests, these are provided at the school in consultation with the school and the relevant TAA.

In order to maintain the integrity of the tests, the testing process and ultimately test results, these protocols must be followed carefully. Breaches of the \textit{National Protocols for Test Administration} and allegations of cheating or improper behaviour are taken very seriously; and substantiated cases of improper behaviour will be reported publicly in ACARA’s annual test incident report. To assist TAAs and schools to determine what appropriate and inappropriate behaviours are, a code of conduct is included, along with information on how breaches are dealt with.

ACARA, in cooperation with states and territories, will continue to review the \textit{National Protocols for Test Administration} to ensure that tests are delivered in an appropriate and consistent manner across all states and territories.

These protocols are designed to cater for the majority of situations. However, the relevant TAA should be contacted for specific advice if it is apparent the protocols do not adequately provide guidance or if there are problems meeting the requirements in these protocols.
2 CODE OF CONDUCT

The NAPLAN Code of Conduct is designed to uphold the integrity of the tests by outlining the fundamental principles upon which the tests are based. Undermining test integrity by breaching these principles or the National Protocols for Test Administration will lead to an investigation and, if allegations are substantiated, to potentially serious consequences.

This code provides a summary of acceptable and unacceptable behaviours. At all times educators must ensure that tests are administered in a way that is fair and equitable for all students, in order to provide an accurate assessment of students’ capabilities at the time of testing.

2.1 NAPLAN is a national assessment, and all students are expected to participate. NAPLAN should be accessible to all students to demonstrate their actual skills and knowledge.

2.1.1 Disability adjustments should be granted that are appropriate for students to access and participate in the tests.

2.1.2 It is not acceptable to exert influence on parents to withdraw their children from testing.

2.2 NAPLAN is primarily an assessment of learning, so the test environment must be tightly controlled to maintain test integrity. This includes the conduct of test administrators, support staff, and the presence of unauthorised teaching or support material.

2.2.1 The integrity of the tests must be maintained at all times; cheating is not permitted.

2.2.2 The test environment must neither advantage nor disadvantage any student.

2.2.3 Tests should be appropriately administered, with administrators being mindful of the time, location, and supervision requirements.

2.2.4 Active supervision of students during the tests is required.

2.2.5 Providing unauthorised assistance to students during the tests is inappropriate.

2.2.6 Providing additional time for the tests (unless disability adjustments have been granted) is inappropriate.

2.2.7 Allowing students access to unauthorised materials and aids during the tests is inappropriate.

2.2.8 Test administrators should ensure their actions before, during and after the tests do not unduly impact on students’ results.

2.3 Schools and teachers should adopt appropriate test preparation strategies that familiarise students with the test process and question formats, but do not excessively rehearse students such that results reflect prepared work rather than students’ own abilities.

2.3.1 The best preparation schools can provide for students is teaching the Australian Curriculum, as implemented in all states and territories.

2.3.2 Any actions that compromise the ability of students to produce results that reflect their own unrehearsed knowledge and skill are inappropriate.
2.3.3 The preparation of possible responses for any test is inappropriate.

2.3.4 Any attempt by school staff to unfairly or dishonestly manipulate test results is inappropriate.

2.3.5 Any attempts by students to gain an unfair advantage are inappropriate.

2.3.6 Any attempts by any party to modify an answer after the test are inappropriate.

2.4 The security of the tests is critical to ensure that students’ individual results accurately reflect their abilities. Test materials must be kept locked in a secure location to avoid any premature disclosure of content, or unauthorised disclosure of test materials at any time during the test period.

2.4.1 The security and confidentiality of the tests must be maintained from the time they are delivered to the school to the end of the test security period.

2.4.2 The content of the tests must not be disclosed prior to the scheduled tests or during the test security period.

2.4.3 The tests should not be conducted outside the secure school location unless prior permission has been granted by the TAA.

2.4.4 All used and unused test books must be secured immediately after each test period (not left in classrooms or other insecure storage areas).

2.4.5 Schools should ensure that completed materials are stored securely in such a way that cannot lead to allegations of tampering with responses prior to their collection or return of materials for marking.

2.4.6 Schools must not copy, transcribe or transmit student responses, or cause responses to be recorded, except as outlined by these protocols.

2.5 Effective communication at all levels is essential for the efficient and transparent delivery of the tests.

2.5.1 Principals and all relevant school staff must read and understand the Handbook for Principals (which includes relevant sections of the National Protocols for Test Administration), and the Test administration handbook for teachers.

2.5.2 Failure to read or become aware of these protocols and documents is not a valid reason for breaching the protocols.

2.5.3 Principals and test administrators must adhere to the instructions outlined in the Handbook for Principals and Test Administration Handbook for Teachers, and principals should seek clarification from their TAA if unsure of any points.

2.5.4 Dishonest and inappropriate practices should be actively discouraged and will not be tolerated. Allegations of breaches of the National Protocols for Test Administration should be reported promptly.

2.5.5 It is the responsibility of the principal to make parents and carers aware of main aspects of the testing program.
3 COMMUNICATIONS

3.1 Responsibilities of ACARA

3.1.1 A website for NAPLAN information (www.nap.edu.au) is maintained with updates on all aspects of the national tests.

3.1.2 A communications strategy clearly outlining the respective roles played by ACARA and TAAs with regard to communication to schools will be made available to TAAs. Materials arising from this strategy that ACARA is responsible for will be made available on the NAP website (www.nap.edu.au).

3.1.3 Maintaining the National Protocols for Test Administration, which is a key risk control and communication document for the NAPLAN program.

3.2 Responsibilities of Test Administration Authorities

Content for this section can be found in the complete National Protocols for Test Administration, on ACARA’s NAP website www.nap.edu.au.

3.3 Responsibilities of principals

3.3.1 Principals are required to:
• ensure that parents/carers of students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are fully informed about the program
• discuss and plan for disability adjustments and exemptions where appropriate
• ensure that all relevant staff are fully informed of their roles and responsibilities and test administration requirements
• ensure that all staff are aware that they must maintain test security until the end of the test security period
• ensure that NAPLAN student reports are delivered to parents/carers in a timely manner after they are received at the school
• be aware of any additional jurisdiction-specific responsibilities outlined in part B of the Handbook for Principals.

3.3.2 Principals are responsible for acknowledging in a manner, outlined by their relevant TAA, that they have read and understood the Handbook for principals, which includes the relevant sections of the National Protocols for Test Administration.
4 SECURITY AND INTEGRITY OF TEST MATERIALS

4.1 Responsibilities of Test Administration Authorities (TAAs)

Content for this section can be found in the complete National Protocols for Test Administration, on ACARA’s NAP website www.nap.edu.au.

4.2 Responsibilities of Test Administration Authorities with contractors

Content for this section can be found in the complete National Protocols for Test Administration, on ACARA’s NAP website www.nap.edu.au.

4.3 Responsibilities of principals

4.3.1 The principal is responsible for the overall security, receipt and confidentiality of all test materials from the time the materials are delivered to the school to the end of the test security period and including the safe collection or dispatch of those materials on conclusion of the tests.

4.3.2 The principal must notify the TAA immediately if test material security has been breached in any way from the time of receipt of the test materials to the end of the test security period.

4.3.3 NAPLAN materials must be received in person by the principal or the principal’s delegate(s) (someone who occupies a position of suitable responsibility, whom the principal nominates as an eligible person to accept the test material delivery). The principal is to ensure that the authorised person who receives the test materials signs for them and legibly records their name and the time the material arrives at the school. This information may be requested by the TAA. Materials must not be left unattended by a courier. If this occurs, the TAA must be notified immediately.

4.3.4 Where couriers cannot avoid making deliveries after school hours, the principal or the principal’s delegate must take delivery of the test materials.

4.3.5 The principal (or the principal’s delegate who signs for the materials) is to ensure the contents and quantities of deliveries are correct as soon as possible after the receipt of the material. Packages must be checked for tampering, and to ensure correct quantities have been delivered without opening the tamper-evident packages.

4.3.6 In the event of incorrect/incomplete delivery or evidence of tampering or other compromise in security during transit, the relevant TAA must be notified immediately and any jurisdiction-specific process followed. Any additional test materials dispatched to schools will be forwarded using the same level of security as that used for the original dispatch.

4.3.7 The principal is responsible for ensuring test materials are sorted and prepared for distribution to classes in advance of the test period, but no earlier than is necessary for the effective administration of the tests. A reasonable period to sort materials may be up to one day. Test materials must be returned to secure storage after sorting until the morning of the relevant test. Test content must not be accessed during this process. Schools that need greater flexibility must apply to their TAA.
4.3.8 Any person(s) acting as a delegate of the principal and assisting the principal in the sorting of materials should not be a classroom teacher of any class taking the tests, except in special circumstances where the size of the school precludes this.

4.3.9 The principal must ensure that all test materials, including the reading magazines and the writing stimulus, are kept secure until the end of the test security period. Under no circumstances can materials be shown or given to parents/carers or members of the wider community, including the media, before the end of the test security period.

4.3.10 The principal must ensure that teachers and students not involved in the tests do not have access to the test materials during the test security period.

4.3.11 The principal must ensure that videos or photographs for media opportunities are taken outside the test sessions and do not show any secure materials.

4.3.12 The principal must ensure that test administrators are informed of test processes and are made familiar with information provided on test security.

4.3.13 **Post-security period use of test materials.** Principals (and their teaching staff) are permitted to use NAPLAN tests for non-commercial educational use within their school after the test security period has ended. This enables primary and secondary school educators to provide hard copies of these tests to their students for educational purposes such as familiarisation with the format of NAPLAN tests. Principals (and their teaching staff) are not permitted to upload NAPLAN tests to any website, intranet site or equivalent media. Principals (and their teaching staff) are not permitted to provide NAPLAN tests to parents/carers or members of the wider community, including the media, even after the test security period has ended. This applies to NAPLAN test materials from 2008.11.
5 STUDENT PARTICIPATION COHORTS

All students in Years 3, 5, 7, and 9 (and only these students) are expected to participate in NAPLAN tests. Students in all other year levels do not participate in NAPLAN tests.

5.1 Assessed students

5.1.1 Assessed students include students who attempt the test (and are not otherwise treated as absent because of abandonment due to illness or injury) and students exempt from testing.

5.1.2 Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in each state and territory attending government and non-government schools are expected to participate in the testing.

5.1.3 Students in ungraded classes, who are equivalent in age to students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9, are expected to take the relevant year level national tests.

5.2 Exempt students

Students may be exempted from one or more of the tests (i.e. Reading, Writing, Language Conventions or Numeracy).

5.2.1 Parent/carer signed consent for exemptions
Principals must obtain signed parent/carer consent for all exempted students prior to the test period. Principals can expect information from TAAs on the preferred method for collecting and recording this information.

5.2.2 English language proficiency
Students with a language background other than English, who arrived from overseas and have been attending school in Australia for less than a year before the test, should be given the opportunity to participate in testing, but may be exempted. Principals can expect information from TAAs on the preferred method for collecting and recording this information.

5.2.3 Students with disability
Students with significant intellectual disability and/or those with significant co-existing conditions which severely limit their capacity to participate in the tests may be exempted from taking the national tests. This is determined after consultation has occurred by the principal, student, and the relevant parent/carer that the student is not able to access the tests with adjustments.

Treatment of exempt students’ data and results

5.2.4 Students who qualify for exemption and do not submit a test attempted under test conditions are considered as assessed students and are counted in the ‘below minimum standard’ calculations for reporting purposes in national and jurisdictional summary data. Results for exempt students are not included in school-level calculations of means.

5.2.5 Students who meet the criteria for exemption, but who take any or all of the tests under test conditions and formally submit those tests, will be counted as assessed students with the score that they achieved.

5.2.6 Exempt students who are absent on the testing day will still be reported as exempt students, rather than absent students.
5.2.7 The text that will appear on an individual student report for tests for which students are exempted will read:

Your child was exempt from this test and is considered not to have achieved the national minimum standard.

5.2.8 Where a student is exempted from all tests, it is recommended that an individual student report not be issued.

5.3 Absent students

5.3.1 Absent students are students who do not take the test because they are not present when the test is administered, and are identified as absent by the school for the purpose of the test session.

5.3.2 Students who are present at school but are unable to take the test as a result of an accident or mishap preventing their participation (including catch-up sessions) are to be recorded as absent for the purpose of the test session.

5.3.3 Students who are present for the tests but who do not attempt any part of a test must be recorded as being present and are considered as assessed students.

5.3.4 Principals are encouraged to facilitate the participation in the tests during a catch-up school within the week scheduled for NAPLAN testing.

Treatment of absent students' data and results

5.3.5 Absent students will not be counted as a part of the cohort of assessed students.

5.3.6 Students who are marked as absent but for whom a test is formally submitted must be counted as assessed. TAAs must validate discrepancies; for example, where a student was absent for a test, but then completed the test in a catch-up session.

5.3.7 A student in Year 7 or 9 who is absent for one of the two numeracy tests (calculator allowed or non-calculator) will be treated as an absent student for that test only.

5.3.8 The text that will appear on an individual student report for tests for which students are absent will read: Your child was absent from this test and no result has been recorded.

5.3.9 The text that will appear on an individual student report for Years 7 and 9 numeracy where students have completed only one of the two test forms will read: Your child does not have a result for one of the two numeracy tests. The result presented here is an estimate of the score your child would have received if both tests had been completed.

5.3.10 Where a student is absent from all tests, it is recommended that an individual student report be issued.

5.4 Withdrawn students

5.4.1 Students may be withdrawn from the testing program by their parent/carer. This is a matter for consideration by individual parents/carers in consultation with their child’s school. Withdrawals are intended to address issues such as religious beliefs and philosophical objections to testing.

5.4.2 A formal notification in the manner specified by the relevant TAA must be received by the principal prior to the testing.
Treatment of withdrawn students’ data and results

5.4.3 Withdrawn students are not counted as a part of the cohort of assessed students.

5.4.4 The text that will appear on the individual student report for tests for which students are withdrawn will read: *Your child was withdrawn from this test.*

5.4.5 Where a student is withdrawn from all tests, it is recommended that an individual student report not be issued.

5.5 Abandonment due to illness or injury

5.5.1 Abandonment of a test refers only to students who attempt one or more questions in a test but who abandon the test due to illness or injury (that is, a sanctioned reason verified by the TAA). The student may not complete the test in a catch-up session.

5.5.2 Abandonment due to illness or injury does NOT apply to students who do not complete the test but are present for the entire test session, or who choose to leave the session without a sanctioned reason that is verified by the TAA; such students must be counted as assessed with the score that they achieve (see non-attempts). The student may not complete the test in a catch-up session.

5.5.3 All instances of students who attempt one or more questions in the test but who then abandon the test due to illness or injury must be reported to the TAA as soon as practicable for advice on appropriate actions.

Treatment of students’ results and data where abandonment applies

5.5.4 Reasons for abandonment due to illness or injury must be recorded and sanctioned by the TAA to avoid a student being considered assessed. When abandonment due to illness or injury is reported to, and sanctioned by, the TAA, students who have abandoned the test are not counted as a part of the cohort of assessed students.

5.5.5 The text that will appear on an individual student report for tests that students have abandoned due to illness or injury will read: *Your child does not have a result for this test due to illness or injury during the test.*

5.5.6 The text that will appear on the individual student report for Years 7 and 9 numeracy where students have completed only one of the two test forms will read: *Your child does not have a result for one of the two numeracy tests. The result presented here is an estimate of the score your child would have received if both tests had been completed.*
5.6 Non-attempts and refusals

5.6.1 Students in attendance at school for the test session but who do not attempt any part of the test or who abandon the test session in a non-sanctioned manner must be recorded as present for the purpose of the test and are considered assessed.

Treatment of students’ results where the test is not attempted

5.6.2 Students who are present for the entire test session but do not complete any part of the test must be counted as assessed students with a score of zero. Students who submit a blank test book must not be treated as absent.

5.6.3 The text that will appear on the individual student report for tests where there is no evidence of participation will read: Your child was present for this test but did not complete any part of the test paper.

5.7 International fee-paying students

5.7.1 International fee-paying students (defined as students holding a student visa under the Education Services for Overseas Students Regulations 2001) are encouraged to participate in NAPLAN tests to facilitate classroom- and school-level learning outcomes; however, results are not recorded as a part of jurisdictional data for public policy purposes.

5.7.2 International fee-paying students are not included in jurisdiction data sets but will receive a student report.

5.7.3 The text that will appear on an individual student report for international fee-paying students for tests where there is no evidence of participation will read: Your child was present for this test but did not complete any part of the test paper.

5.8 Hosted and visiting students

5.8.1 If a student is away from their regular location (for example, visiting interstate), it may be possible for the student to be given an opportunity to take the tests at a school in the student’s temporary location.

5.8.2 Principals of potential host schools are encouraged to facilitate the participation of visiting students.

5.8.3 Tests should be taken on blank test books provided by the host school.

5.8.4 Where a student is visiting from interstate, the principal at the host school is responsible for sending the student’s test books back to the TAA in the student’s home state/territory by registered post (see section 12 for TAA postal details).

5.8.5 The student’s results will be included in the dataset for their home state/territory.

5.8.6 The student will receive a student report through their own school.
6 ADJUSTMENTS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY

Student participation in NAPLAN is the joint responsibility of schools and TAAs, as outlined in these protocols.

Adjustments permitted in the tests are detailed in this section and apply only to students with disability. Adjustments are permitted for students with disability to support their access to the tests and facilitate maximum participation. For the NAPLAN program, disability is defined as per the Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992.1

Adjustments are intended to enable access to the tests on an equivalent basis to students without disability.

Adjustments for students with disability for NAPLAN should be determined in line with these protocols on a case-by-case basis by the school together with the relevant TAA, the parent/carer and the student. Examples of the application of these adjustments can be found in a set of ‘scenarios’ published on the National Assessment Program website (www.nap.edu.au).

6.1 Disability Discrimination Act and Disability Standards for Education

6.1.1 The Disability Standards for Education (2005) provide a framework to ensure that students with disability are able to access and participate in education on the same basis as other students and outline the obligations of school education providers under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992.

The standards outline an obligation for education providers to make reasonable adjustments, where necessary, to ensure the maximum participation of students with disability. The framework provides for:

- consultation with the student (or an associate of the student)
- consideration of whether an adjustment is necessary
- identification of a reasonable adjustment if an adjustment is necessary
- making the reasonable adjustment.

The term ‘reasonable adjustment’ is described as a measure or action taken to assist a student with disability to participate in education on the same basis as other students. An adjustment is reasonable if it achieves this purpose while taking into account the student’s learning needs and balancing the interests of all parties affected, including those of the student with the disability, the education provider, staff and other students.

6.2 Adjustments, test requirements and student participation

6.2.1 Where disability impacts on access to the tests, reasonable adjustments may be granted to facilitate access to all or some of the tests.

6.2.2 Adjustments are based on the following equity principles and are designed to maximise participation in the NAPLAN tests:

- Adjustments should allow students with disability to access NAPLAN tests.
- A student may have access to more than one adjustment in any one test and different adjustments may be appropriate for different tests.
- Adjustments should reflect the kind of support and assistance provided for assessment in the classroom in order for students to demonstrate what they know and can do, noting that adjustments that are appropriate in a learning environment may not be appropriate in an assessment environment.

1 www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/consol_act/dda1992264/
• Adjustments should not compromise the ability to assess the underlying skills that are the objects of the assessments, as outlined in Section 6.2.3.

6.2.3 The NAPLAN tests are designed to provide a summative, nationally comparable understanding of student performance in reading, writing, language conventions and numeracy. The tests are not designed as formative tools, and adjustments appropriate for learning environments may not be appropriate for NAPLAN. Adjustments are not appropriate (even if they are usually provided for the student in their classroom) if they compromise a student’s ability to demonstrate the following skills:

- **Reading:** The NAPLAN reading tests assess the ability of students to independently make meaning from written standard Australian English texts including those with some visual elements. Reading the stimulus material and/or questions aloud to a student during the reading test is therefore not appropriate or permitted.

- **Writing:** The NAPLAN writing tests assess a student’s ability to convey thoughts, ideas and information through an independent construction of a written text in standard Australian English.

- **Language conventions:** The NAPLAN language conventions tests assess a student’s ability to independently recognise and use correct standard Australian English grammar, punctuation and spelling in written contexts. Reading questions aloud to a student during the language conventions test is therefore not appropriate or permitted.

- **Numeracy:** The NAPLAN numeracy tests assess students’ knowledge of mathematics, their ability to independently apply that knowledge in context, and their ability to independently reason mathematically. Reading numbers or symbols aloud to a student or interpreting diagrams in the numeracy test is therefore not appropriate or permitted.

For further information, see section 8.6.11.

6.3 Responsibilities of Test Administration Authorities

6.3.1 Each TAA will:

- comply with a consistent approach across all states and territories where students access any adjustments as set out in the National protocols for test administration

- provide test materials in an alternative format (see section 11 for definitions) for those students who meet the criteria.
6.4 Responsibilities of principals

6.4.1 The principal must:

- identify students with disability who require access to adjustments and, where necessary, apply in writing for permission and/or alternative formats
- ensure that parents/carers are informed about, and have agreed to, the nature of the adjustment(s) the student will receive
- document all adjustment arrangements and keep a record of these for audit purposes
- make arrangements at the school level to provide students with disability with the adjustments they require
- apply for alternative format test materials to the relevant TAA, well in advance of the test
- comply with the TAA requirements for reporting adjustments provided by the school
- ensure that the test administrator supervising the test has a thorough understanding of the protocols related to adjustments and their administration.

6.5 Use of a Scribe: permitted for the Writing test only

6.5.1 A scribe (as defined in these protocols in section 11) may be permitted to assist a student with disability to complete the writing test only. Students with disability might be permitted the use of a NAPLAN support person for the other NAPLAN tests if appropriate (see section 6.6).

6.5.2 The role of a scribe is to provide access to the writing test, not to improve a student’s performance in this test. Scribes are only appropriate for students with disability for whom this is regular literacy assessment practice. Poor handwriting in itself or a reluctance to write is not sufficient justification for the use of a scribe. Where appropriate, students should be encouraged to undertake the tests independently of a scribe, using alternative adjustments.

6.5.3 For the writing test, a scribe may be provided for a student with disability who meets all of the following criteria:

- has difficulty with the physical act of writing (this does not refer to a student’s difficulty processing what they want to write) or fine motor control due to a disability, or experiences excessive fatigue of hands or upper limbs due to a disability; and
- does not have fluency using alternative means of writing (for example, students who lack fluency using a computer); and
- is familiar with working with a scribe under the conditions outlined in this section; and
- would be unable to access the writing test by any of the other adjustments available.

6.5.4 In order to ensure national consistency in the use of Scribes and to ensure that the results are not compromised, prior written permission to use a scribe must be sought and given by the respective TAA. Failure to do so may result in test results being invalidated.
6.5.5 A Scribe must have experience working as a scribe; be an adult; be officially and regularly engaged by the school to carry out this function; and be familiar with the NAPLAN scribe rules (section 6.5.6).

A Scribe should, wherever possible, be familiar with the student in question.

A Scribe cannot be a parent of any student in the class of students being tested.

6.5.6 A scribe must be fully aware of, and adhere to, the test administration procedures and the following conditions (Scribe Rules):

**Scribe Rules**

- Test instructions should be delivered exactly as outlined in the *Test Administration Handbook for Teachers*.

- After allowing a student time to reflect and consider, a scribe will write as the student dictates and must neither suggest ideas or words to use, nor prompt in any other way.

- As the student dictates, the scribe will write word for word to reproduce the student’s own language, printing all words in lower case without any punctuation, except as dictated by the student. The student must be aware of the need to advise of punctuation.

- The student may read or request the scribe read the text back throughout the test for the purpose of maintaining continuity; however, the scribe should not lead the student to re-read the text.

- A spelling check must be performed before the student can be given the scribed text to proofread and edit. The scribe will select four (4) easy words, four (4) average words and four (4) hard words that have been used in the text and ask the student to orally spell each one. The scribe will record the student’s oral spelling of each of these 12 words in a space below the text.

- When completed, the scribe must cover the scribed text and show the student only the 12 spelling words. The scribe must ask the student to check these words and indicate any change that the scribe should make.

- When the test is over, the scribe will write the selected words in brackets next to each of the words spelt by the student to avoid any confusion during the marking process.

- During the editing time, the scribed text is given to the student to proofread and to indicate where punctuation is to be placed, if not indicated by the student in their original dictation. The scribe will then mark capitals, full stops, paragraphs, etc., as directed by the student.

- During this time, the student may also indicate any changes or additions to the text, and the scribe will write these where indicated by the student.
6.6 Use of a NAPLAN Support Person: Reading, Language Conventions and Numeracy Tests

6.6.1 A NAPLAN support person (see definition in section 11) may:

- be permitted for students with disability to assist with access to the reading, language conventions and numeracy tests by shading bubbles indicated by the student, or writing short responses or answers dictated by the student for the tests
- can read aloud only those elements of the test that can be read to all students (see section 8.6.11)
- be either a teacher or a person officially engaged by the school to carry out this function.

The role of a NAPLAN support person is distinct and separate from the role of a test administrator (see definitions in section 11).

6.6.2 See section 6.5 for information on supported access to the writing test.

6.6.3 A NAPLAN support person is permitted only for those students with disability (including a temporary disability such as a broken arm) who experience difficulty in accessing the tests by any other adjustments available, including the ‘use of a computer’ (for example, due to fine motor difficulty), or who usually use such a support person to participate in classroom assessments.

6.6.4 A NAPLAN support person is permitted to provide access to the tests only and must adhere to the relevant requirements outlined in sections 8.6 and 8.7. Prompting, interpreting, paraphrasing, etc. are practices that are strictly prohibited. Common assessment principles and a commitment to upholding the integrity of the assessment environment must be adhered to when administering and overseeing the use of adjustments.

6.6.5 Parents and family members as a NAPLAN support person:

- If a parent or family member has a child at a school at which they are regularly employed and/or engaged by the school in the capacity of a support person, then he/she may be permitted to be a NAPLAN support person.
- A NAPLAN support person cannot be the parent or family member of any student in the class of students being tested.
- If the parent or family member is not employed by the school in a formal position, then he/she is not permitted to assist in the NAPLAN tests as a NAPLAN support person.
- Principal and school discretion and common sense should be applied, and the TAA should be consulted if necessary.
6.7  Use of assistive technology

6.7.1  TAA procedures for the granting of adjustments for the use of assistive technology, including a computer, must be followed. Schools must seek advice and/or approval from their TAA for this adjustment prior to testing.

6.7.2  Where a student with disability regularly uses a computer as a part of usual disability adjustments in classroom assessments, this adjustment may be appropriate for use during the tests. For example, students may type their response to items on a computer. These responses must then be printed and returned for processing in the manner prescribed by the TAA. TAAs manage the transcription of student responses.

6.7.3  Use of a computer must be in accordance with standard assessment practices: spell-check, grammar-check, dictionary, predictive text, etc. must be turned off. Access to the internet or internal networks must also be completely restricted. It is expected that a basic level of logistical support is provided to students permitted to use assistive technology in line with normal test conditions (for example, setting up of a computer).

6.7.4  Screen readers that provide text-to-speech outputs may be used by students to listen to their typed responses in all tests.

6.8  Braille

6.8.1  Braille test materials can be provided for students who use braille to access the curriculum. All test materials are produced in contracted single-line spaced braille. However, for students who lack proficiency or who are new braille users, the test materials can be provided in uncontracted or double-line spaced formats, on request.

6.8.2  Each set of braille test materials will include:
   • braille format of all test books and stimulus
   • a print transcript of the braille format of each braille test book and stimulus
   • models for items in the numeracy test, where required.

6.8.3  The logistics of using braille format warrant the provision of some extra time for all students accessing the test in this manner, regardless of their proficiency in this medium. For braille users, guidelines regarding the provision of extra time are as follows:
   • writing: 10 minutes per half hour
   • reading: 15 minutes per half hour
   • language conventions: 15 minutes per half hour
   • numeracy: 20 minutes per half hour.

These times are a guide only. The allocation of extra time for a braille user should be decided on a case-by-case basis.

6.8.4  Schools wishing to access this adjustment must apply to their TAA in line with these protocols.

6.8.5  Completed braille tests must be returned in the manner prescribed by the TAA for transcribing.
6.9 Electronic test format

6.9.1 The electronic test enables students to answer questions on screen. It may be an appropriate adjustment for students with disability who use a computer as a part of their usual adjustments when participating in classroom assessments. This is only available to students who are not able to access the tests through any of the other adjustments available, including the use of large print material or assistive technology as outlined above (section 6.7). For example, an electronic test format may be an appropriate adjustment for students with disability who have at least one of the following:
- severe vision problems and are not braille proficient
- severe physical disabilities which restrict movement.

6.9.2 Students accessing the tests in this format are likely to need extra time. The allocation of extra time should be decided on a case-by-case basis. Refer to section 6.11.1 for more details on allocating extra time.

6.9.3 Schools wishing to access this adjustment must apply to their TAA in line with these protocols.

6.10 Temporary injuries

6.10.1 Where a temporary injury, which impacts on a student’s ability to access the tests independently, has been sustained prior to the test, the school may make appropriate disability adjustments. For example, a student with a temporary injury might be granted the use of a computer to assist with the writing test in line with section 6.7, or a NAPLAN support person to provide access to the other tests in line with section 6.6.

6.10.2 A scribe is not permitted for students who have a temporary injury (such as a broken arm) at the time of the writing test.

6.10.3 A doctor’s certificate may be requested to support an application for adjustments (such as the use of a computer) for a student with a temporary injury. It is not appropriate to request adjustments where these are not warranted by the nature of the injury.

6.10.4 Schools must ensure they obtain relevant approvals from their TAA for adjustments for students with temporary injuries, if required by these protocols.

6.10.5 If no available adjustment is appropriate to enable participation, the student must be marked absent from the test.

6.11 Extra time and rest breaks

6.11.1 It is recommended that no more than five minutes of extra time per half hour of test time be granted; however, depending on the level of disability, a longer time may be needed. In any case, the teacher and school are best placed to make the final decision based on the specific circumstances of the student in question, in line with TAA requirements.

6.11.2 Where relevant, rest breaks can be used as an alternative to extra time to avoid student fatigue, although there may be instances where both adjustments are necessary.
6.11.3 Braille users: The logistics of using braille or a brailler warrant the provision of some extra time for all students accessing the test in this manner, regardless of their proficiency in this medium. For braille users, guidelines regarding the provision of extra time are as follows:

- writing: 10 minutes per half hour
- reading: 15 minutes per half hour
- language conventions: 15 minutes per half hour
- numeracy: 20 minutes per half hour.

These times are a guide only. The allocation of extra time for a braille user should be decided on a case-by-case basis.

6.12 Summary of adjustments for students with disability

6.12.1 It is anticipated that students will have their usual access to standard non-educational facilities and furniture that form part of their everyday assessment adjustments under the Disability Discrimination Act and Disability Standards for Education.

6.12.2 The following table outlines some of the types of adjustments that might be provided. This list is not exhaustive, and granting of a listed adjustment is not automatic; each application should be assessed individually according to the relevant state/territory process and a student’s needs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disability Adjustments</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extra time</td>
<td>Generally, it is recommended that no more than five minutes of extra time per half hour of test time be granted; however, in some cases, up to an additional 15 minutes per half hour of published test time may be provided. See also section 6.11.3 for extra time for braille users.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rest breaks</td>
<td>Generally, it is recommended that no more than 10 minutes of rest time per half hour of test time be granted; however, in some cases, up to an additional 15 minutes per half hour of published test time may be provided. Where relevant, rest breaks can be used as an alternative to extra time to avoid student fatigue, although there will be instances where both extra time and rest breaks are necessary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral/Sign support</td>
<td>Students who are deaf or have a hearing impairment may access oral or signed communication (for example, Auslan). The support person must be a skilled and familiar communication partner with the student and is permitted to read or sign the instructions in all tests. Signing is permitted only for those sections of the tests that can be read to non-hearing impaired students (see section 8.6.11).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Scribe                  | Scribes can be used for the Writing test if this is the usual assessment practice in the classroom.  
- ✓ Scribes are permitted for the writing test where the disability is of an enduring nature.  
- ✗ A scribe is not permitted for students who have a temporary injury (such as a broken arm) at the time of the writing test. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Disability Adjustments</strong></th>
<th><strong>Comments</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NAPLAN Support Person</td>
<td>A NAPLAN support person may be either a teacher or a person officially engaged by the school to assist students with disability to access the test. A NAPLAN support person can shade bubbles indicated by the student or write short responses or answers dictated by the student for the Reading, Language Conventions and Numeracy tests.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Assistive technology / computers | Computer use may be permitted for all tests for students with disability who normally use this adjustment for their usual classroom assessments and for students with temporary injuries such as broken arms. Schools must seek advice and/or approval from their TAA for this adjustment prior to testing.  
  ✓ Software providing text-to-speech outputs is permitted to enable students with disability who normally use this type of adjustment to access their own responses in all tests, where appropriate.  
  Unacceptable aspects of computer use include:  
  ✗ word prediction  
  ✗ spelling and grammar checking  
  ✗ text-to-speech software for language conventions and reading tests  
  ✗ calculator use during the non-calculator numeracy tests  
  ✗ internet / internal network access. |
| Black and white print format | Black and white print test books are available for students who generally access their classroom assessments in this manner. Black and white test books may be copied onto coloured paper or used with coloured overlays. Schools are responsible for copying onto coloured paper and providing the coloured overlays. Black and white test materials must be ordered in advance through the TAA. |
| Large print format | Various formats of large print test books are available for students with a vision impairment who generally access their classroom assessment in this manner. Large print materials must be ordered in advance through the TAA. The formats available are:  
  • A4, N18 font  
  • A4, N24 font  
  • A3, N18 font  
  • A3, N24 font  
  • A3, N36 font |
| Braille format | Braille test books are available for students who normally use braille in their classroom assessment. Braille materials must be ordered in advance through the TAA. See section 6.8 for more details on braille format. |
| Electronic test format | This adjustment is limited to those students with disability who are unable to access the tests through any of the other adjustments available including the use of assistive technology. Electronic test format materials must be ordered in advance through the TAA. |
7 PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE TEST

NAPLAN tests provide point-in-time information in relation to student performance. It is important that the results accurately reflect student ability and they are not intended to be pass/fail type tests.

NAPLAN tests are intended to complement the existing range of school-based assessments. It is important that teachers ensure that students, while taking the NAPLAN tests seriously, are not overwhelmed by the experience. Students should be familiar with the formats of the tests and response types, but excessive practice is not recommended.

The provision of broad and comprehensive teaching and learning programs is the best preparation that schools can provide for their students. Therefore, excessive coaching and test preparation are inappropriate.

7.1 Practice for the NAPLAN writing test

7.1.1 It is appropriate for students to gain experience in producing writing scripts under timed test conditions using practice topics.

7.1.2 It is not appropriate for teachers to instruct students in the preparation of a common script for the purpose of reproducing it during the test. Where scripts from students at the same school are found to have significant commonalities such that they could be considered to be pre-prepared learned scripts, this may be considered a breach of protocol.

7.2 Practice for other NAPLAN tests

7.2.1 It is appropriate for students, particularly students participating in the NAPLAN tests for the first time, to be made familiar with the format, language, response types and time constraints of the Reading, Language Conventions and Numeracy tests before they take the tests. Students should understand that they must complete the tests without communicating with other students and without teacher assistance (except where adjustments for students with disability are deemed necessary).
8 ADMINISTERING THE TESTS

8.1 Responsibilities of Test Administration Authorities (TAAs)

Content for this section can be found in the complete National Protocols for Test Administration, on ACARA’s NAP website www.nap.edu.au.

8.2 Responsibilities of principals

8.2.1 Principals are responsible for the administration of the tests within their school.

8.2.2 Principals are responsible for the administration of arrangements for students undertaking catch-up tests and the conditions under which they are taken for 2016.

8.3 Students registered for non-school-based locations

8.3.1 Arrangements for the administration of the tests for students who do not normally attend a regular school location will vary in accordance with the legislation, regulations and policies in each of the states and territories. These protocols do not override existing state and territory requirements, and may not reflect or apply to all situations.

8.3.2 In accordance with jurisdiction-specific legislation or policy, TAAs must ensure that students registered for non-school-based education are able to participate in the tests. Where participation in the tests can only occur in non-school locations, TAAs must ensure that the security of the tests is assured.

8.3.3 TAAs may only grant permission to parents of students registered in non-school-based locations to act in locum for a principal and test administrator if this is the only way access to the test can be achieved for their child. This permission may only be sought by a school on behalf of parents.

8.3.4 The same demands regarding the code of conduct and security surrounding storage and dispatch of the test materials are expected of parents acting as test administrators as they are of principals and test administrators.

8.4 Time for testing

8.4.1 Tests must NOT be conducted before the official test date under any circumstances. The test period starts on 10 May 2016 and finishes on 12 May 2016. The test security period finishes on 20 May 2016.
The test timetable is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday 9 May</th>
<th>Tuesday 10 May</th>
<th>Wednesday 11 May</th>
<th>Thursday 12 May</th>
<th>Friday 13 May</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. Language Conventions</strong></td>
<td><strong>2. Writing</strong></td>
<td><strong>3. Reading</strong></td>
<td><strong>4. Numeracy</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 3: 40 mins</td>
<td>Yr 3: 40 mins</td>
<td>Yr 3: 45 mins</td>
<td>Yr 3: 45 mins</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 5: 40 mins</td>
<td>Yr 5: 50 mins</td>
<td>Yr 5: 50 mins</td>
<td>Yr 5: 50 mins</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 7: 45 mins</td>
<td>Yr 7: 65 mins</td>
<td>Yr 7: 65 mins</td>
<td>Yr 7: 65 mins</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 9: 45 mins</td>
<td>Yr 9: 65 mins</td>
<td>Yr 9: 65 mins</td>
<td>Yr 9: 65 mins</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

catch-up tests permitted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday 16 May</th>
<th>Tuesday 17 May</th>
<th>Wednesday 18 May</th>
<th>Thursday 19 May</th>
<th>Friday 20 May</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Test security to be maintained to ensure the tests remain secure for schools sanctioned to vary test dates. Individual student catch-up tests not permitted.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8.4.2 Only schools with compelling reasons are able to vary test dates (up to 20 May 2016) following prior permission from a relevant TAA. The reason must be of a serious order and outside the school or school system’s control; for example, where a local public holiday occurs during the testing period. This is only available to classes or groups, not individual students.

8.4.3 Schools must schedule the tests so that they are undertaken in morning sessions on the official test dates. Schools must administer the tests in the sequence specified in Section 8.4.1, including those days where two tests are conducted. Schools with permission to vary the test dates must follow the instructions provided by their TAA.

8.4.4 Where there is more than one test scheduled for any day, the order in the schedule in 8.4.1 must be adhered to, and a minimum of 20 minutes break time for students should be provided between the two test sessions.

8.4.5 Except in the case of individual students who have been granted rest breaks as disability adjustments, tests must be completed in a single uninterrupted session. See also section 8.8 for information on how to manage test disruptions.

8.4.6 Individual students are not 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 only, after the scheduled test. These protocols also apply to test catch-up days and approved variations.
8.5 Preparation for test administration

8.5.1 Responsibilities of the principal

- The principal will determine and appoint, if required, relevant persons to act as test administrators.
- The principal will ensure test administrators are provided with the relevant Test Administration Handbook for Teachers and all assessment materials, and are familiar with the requirements of the role, including implementation of disability adjustments for relevant students.
- Principals must obtain permission from their TAA, in accordance with TAA guidelines, where computers or network-enabled devices are used. Where permission to use computers is granted, the internet connection, spelling and grammar check, and text prediction functions must be disabled.
- The principal will ensure test administrators are provided with a copy of the code of conduct.

8.5.2 The principal must ensure that:

- under no circumstances, any student undertakes a test before the specified test date
- under no circumstances, any student undertakes a test without supervision
- during the test, students are not able to view material within the test area that could assist them to answer questions or assist with the writing test. Examples of such material include, but are not limited to, multiplication tables, spelling lists, and writing charts.
- spare or unused test books are not used as practice books for any students (regardless of year level) before the end of the test security period
- test materials are not provided to any teachers (regardless of year level or subject area) before the end of the test security period.

8.5.3 The principal has the responsibility to adhere to and enforce the procedures outlined in the Handbook for Principals.

8.6 Administering the tests – appropriate behaviours

8.6.1 Test administrators must ensure that staff members demonstrate professional and ethical behaviour regarding all aspects of test administration. Any assistance that answers a test question for a student or advantages them in any way will be considered cheating (see also section 11).

8.6.2 ‘Cheating’ refers to behaviour undertaken with the intent of conferring or obtaining unfair advantage in or from the assessment process.

8.6.3 In the case of a teacher, test administrator, or school, an advantage would generally be observed in the performance of the school or cohort, and cheating may include:

- viewing test materials before the morning of the test and using this knowledge to prepare students
- explaining, paraphrasing or interpreting questions (including translating questions into another language or dialect)
- changing student responses during or after the test
- knowingly allowing students to engage in behaviour amounting to cheating.
8.6.4 Student cheating is not, in itself, considered a breach of these protocols, but may reflect a breach by test administrators. In the case of students, an advantage would generally be observed in their individual result. Acts of academic misconduct by students during the tests, such as cheating, are to be dealt with through schools’ existing procedures. Cheating may include intentionally:

- taking unauthorised equipment or prohibited information into the test room (for example, mobile phone, dictionary, smart watch or other internet- or Bluetooth-enabled device)
- communicating with any person other than an administrator during the test introduction time, planning time or during the test
- looking at another student’s work
- working on the incorrect test in the ‘flip’ test book.

Where a student is found to have cheated, or is reasonably suspected of having done so, the TAA must be contacted as soon as possible.

8.6.5 During the tests, students should be seated so they are not able to read other students’ work. If students take the tests in their classroom, it is expected that a test administrator is present at all times. If students are seated with a larger group (for example, in a hall), the student test administrator ratio must be comparable to that of a regular classroom.

8.6.6 It is expected that test administrators will actively supervise students at all times, including walking around the room, to ensure that test conditions are maintained. When administering the tests in the ‘flip’ test books, test administrators must ensure that students are working on the correct test. The page borders in the test books have been shaded differently to assist this supervision.

8.6.7 Test administrators are responsible for ensuring that only permitted items are taken into the test area. This involves taking reasonable steps to ensure the security of the testing environment is maintained by students not bringing in cameras and mobile internet- or Bluetooth-enabled devices.

8.6.8 The following items are NOT permitted in the test area under any circumstances:

- mobile phones (principals must ensure that students are notified that mobile phones are not permitted)
- smart watch or other internet- or Bluetooth-enabled device
- rulers.

8.6.9 Test administrators must ensure that students take only permitted items into the test area.

The permitted items are:

- pencils or pens (as specified by the TAA)
- pencil sharpener
- eraser
- one blank piece of paper in the language conventions test, which is to be collected by a test administrator at the end of the test
- one blank piece of paper for planning in the writing test, which is to be collected by a test administrator at the end of the test
- one blank piece of paper for working in the numeracy tests, which is to be collected by a test administrator at the end of the test
- calculators for the Year 7 and 9 numeracy calculator-allowed tests
- where necessary, assistive technology as a disability adjustment, which may include a computer.
8.6.10 Test administrators are responsible for the use of calculators in the Years 7 and 9 numeracy tests.
- Students will be permitted to take into the test the calculator that they currently use at school or with which they are most familiar, unless it is disallowed according to 8.6.8.
- Schools should ensure that they have a sufficient reserve supply of calculators.
- Test administrators are responsible for ensuring that all calculators have been checked and that no information that might advantage a student has been stored on the calculator.
- Calculators do not include multifunction or internet accessible devices.

8.6.11 Reading aloud to students
The literacy demands of the test should not exclude a student from accessing the numeracy tests; however, it is not intended that a test administrator leads the class through the numeracy test, question by question, unless the literacy standard of the whole class is a barrier to access.
Test administrators are permitted to:
✓ read the writing stimulus
✓ read the numeracy questions (not numbers or symbols)
✓ read the test instructions
✓ read the practice questions.

Test administrators are NOT permitted to:
✗ read questions or stimulus material in the reading or language conventions tests
✗ read numbers or symbols in the numeracy tests
✗ interpret diagrams or rephrase questions
✗ paraphrase, interpret or give hints about questions or texts.

8.7 Instructions by test administrators

8.7.1 Test instructions must be delivered exactly as documented in the Test Administration Handbook for Teachers. Instructions outside those specified in the Test Administration Handbook should be minimal.
Typically these other instructions may be to:
- remind students of elapsed time
- maintain test conditions for all students
- remind students to check that they have completed all questions.
Under no circumstances is it appropriate to prompt students to record or change any response.

8.8 Time taken to complete tests and test disruptions

8.8.1 All students must be allocated the standard time set for each test, unless they are granted extra time in accordance with the protocols.

8.8.2 Variations from the allocated time may be permitted only in cases where students have been granted extra time as a disability adjustment prior to the tests. These variations should be recorded as required by the TAA.
8.8.3 In the case of significant and unforeseen interruptions to the tests (for example, fire alarms / electricity outages), or where disruptions could impact on students’ results, schools must contact their TAA immediately for advice on appropriate action to ensure that any potential impact on students’ results is minimised.

8.8.4 If a student commences any test, and due to illness or injury (migraine, nausea, etc.) is unable to finish the test during the official test session, the TAA must be contacted. If the TAA sanctions the reason for the student abandoning the test, the test book must be marked as abandoned. If the TAA does not sanction the reason for the student abandoning the test, the test book must be marked on the basis of any questions answered. The student may not complete the test in a catch-up session.

8.8.5 Where student behaviour during the tests is disruptive to the point where it might impact on one or more students’ results, the assessment environment should be appropriately managed. Students removed from the test room for disciplinary reasons must either continue the test in a separate supervised room immediately, or be deemed to have finished the test.

8.8.6 The TAA should be contacted as soon as practical to the time of a significant disruption to advise on and sanction a school’s proposed actions.

8.9 Collection of test materials and post-test procedures

8.9.1 At the end of the test session, test administrators must collect all test books and hand them immediately to the principal or principal’s delegate or nominee for secure storage until returned for processing. All other material, including stimulus materials and unused test books, must also be collected from the test area and kept secure until the end of the testing period. No students, teachers (unless they are a test administrator) or any unauthorised persons should remove any test material from the test area.

8.9.2 Test books must be returned for processing in the manner specified by the TAA, by the specified date. The absence of the principal (or delegate) from the school is not a reason for the late return of test books. Schools should have an alternative plan in place if the principal or delegate is absent during the test period.

8.9.3 Schools must not copy, transcribe or transmit student responses or cause responses to be recorded except as outlined by these protocols. This prohibition includes photocopying completed test books and/or asking students to record their answers separately from their response book (except as may be required for their disability adjustment).

8.9.4 Under no circumstances should test administrators mark any test books or provide results to teachers, parents and/or students.

8.9.5 Test administrators are not to transcribe special print books unless advised by TAAs.

8.9.6 Schools are permitted to keep unused, unnamed copies of the test materials for future reference for internal educational purposes. Refer to section 4.3.13 for guidance on appropriate post-security period use of the test materials.
9 MARKING

9.1 Responsibilities of ACARA

9.1.1 A common set of quality assurance procedures and processes to ensure comparable marking standards across the country have been set at the national level.

9.1.2 ACARA is responsible for the quality assurance procedures for marking.

Content for this section can be found in the complete National protocols for test administration, on ACARA’s NAP website www.nap.edu.au.

9.2 Responsibilities of Test Administration Authorities

Content for this section can be found in the complete National protocols for test administration, on ACARA’s NAP website www.nap.edu.au.

10 BREACHES OF TEST PROTOCOLS

Any allegation of a situation or incident that contravenes these protocols, including the code of conduct, or is suspected of breaching these protocols, is taken seriously and must be investigated and managed in line with the Guidelines for Managing Test Incidents in Schools, available on the NAP website (www.nap.edu.au).

Whether an allegation of a breach of these protocols amounts to cheating is a question of whether there was an intent on the part of the person responsible for the breach to effect or obtain an unfair advantage (on behalf of a student, a cohort of students, or a school). The question of intent, where relevant, should be determined during any subsequent investigation.

ACARA will publish an annual statement reporting NAPLAN test incidents to support the integrity of the testing process and to inform test administrators about appropriate behaviours.

10.1 Reporting of incidents

10.1.1 All allegations of test incidents or breaches of these protocols must be reported immediately to the relevant responsible entity and TAA.

10.1.2 Where an incident is reported or suspected at a school level, the school is required to document the allegation and follow the actions outlined in the Guidelines for managing test incidents in schools as soon as possible. Failure to do so is itself a breach of these protocols.

10.1.3 Where an incident is reported directly to a TAA, the principal(s) concerned and/or the appropriate school authority / school owners / school boards must be notified immediately.
10.2 **Investigation of incidents**

10.2.1 When a report alleging a breach of the protocols is received by a TAA, the relevant responsible entity will require that an investigation of the allegation is undertaken.

10.2.2 The investigation of an incident may involve other authorities in cases where the governance of the school does not reside with the state or territory education department or authority.

10.2.3 Similarly, any action taken against an individual or a school as the result of an investigation confirming a breach or cheating will be undertaken by the relevant authority or agency.

10.2.4 A record of all alleged incidents and breaches, together with the findings and subsequent outcome of the investigation, will be recorded in an incident register and reported to ACARA as soon as possible.

10.3 **Types of incidents**

10.3.1 Situations or incidents cited in this document as examples are not inclusive of all possible situations or incidents. Any incident that compromises the security or integrity of NAPLAN testing, including behaviours listed as ‘inappropriate’, should be considered as a possible breach of protocol and reported accordingly for investigation.

10.3.2 States and territories may be liable for additional costs of printing, distribution and marking associated with test incidents.

10.4 **Breaches of security for the writing test**

10.4.1 While it is important that the security of all NAPLAN tests is maintained until the test days, the content of the writing test is particularly sensitive, as each writing test is a one item test. Any pre-publication of the content of the writing test poses a significant face validity issue.

10.4.2 If the writing topic is known to students in advance, and they have had opportunity to practise their writing, this exposure provides a significant advantage to students and may compromise the test data.

10.4.3 Any alleged breaches of writing test content must be immediately reported to ACARA. ACARA will have an action plan to deal with such incidents.

10.5 **Consequences of substantiated incidents**

10.5.1 Any substantiated breach of protocol that is deemed to have affected the validity of any test data may result in a TAA or ACARA withholding these data.

10.5.2 The responsible entity for each school, be it the TAA, education department or the school authority / school owners / school boards, is directly responsible for any disciplinary action in schools within its jurisdiction, which follows from inappropriate behaviour by school staff or students in relation to security of test material and/or of test administration.
### 11 DEFINITIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alternative format tests</th>
<th>Tests provided in Braille, large print, black and white or electronic format as disability adjustments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Breach of protocol</td>
<td>Any breach of the <em>National Protocols for Test Administration</em>, and may relate to test security, cheating, or any other breach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breach of security</td>
<td>Any breach of the <em>National Protocols for Test Administration</em> that bears upon the security of the test materials prior to and during the test security period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheating</td>
<td>Behaviour undertaken with the intent of conferring or obtaining unfair advantage in or from the assessment process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability adjustments</td>
<td>Students with disability may require adjustments to allow for participation in the tests. Disability adjustments are intended to enable students with disability to access the tests on an equivalent basis to students without disability, while upholding the integrity of the testing process. Disability adjustments permitted in the tests are detailed in Section 6 of these <em>National Protocols for Test Administration</em>.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| NAPLAN support person    | *What can a NAPLAN support person do?*  
A NAPLAN support person enables students with disability to access the test by shading bubbles indicated by the student, or writing short responses or answers dictated by the student for the reading, conventions of language and numeracy tests. A NAPLAN support person may read aloud only those elements of the test that can be read to all students (see section 8.6.11).  
A NAPLAN support person may be either a teacher or an official support person engaged by the school (not a parent of the student or another student). The role of NAPLAN support person is distinct and separate from the role of test administrator (see below definition). More information on use of a NAPLAN support person can be found at section 6.6 |
<p>| Responsible Entity       | The entity that has authority in relation to any particular school or school system to receive and assess initial reports of possible breaches of the Protocols (e.g. school board, system authority, government department, depending on school type. See <em>Guidelines for managing test incidents</em> (<a href="http://www.nap.edu.au">www.nap.edu.au</a>) for more information |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scribe</th>
<th>What can a scribe do?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A scribe is only used for the writing test – all other one-on-one support granted as adjustments is covered under the term ‘NAPLAN support person’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scribes are only appropriate for students with disability for whom this is regular literacy assessment practice. More details on the processes a scribe must follow can be found in 6.5.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All scribes must be officially and regularly engaged by the school to carry out this function and be aware of, and agree to adhere to, the NAPLAN scribe rules prior to commencing duties. Scribe rules can be found in section 6.5.6.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who can be a scribe?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A scribe may be a teacher, teacher’s aide, or other appropriate person who is familiar with, and adheres to, the NAPLAN scribe rules and who is able to write under direction from a student. A parent of the student must not act as their scribe. Another student must not act as a scribe.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Administration Authority (TAA)</th>
<th>A test administration authority is an education department or test authority in each state or territory, which has a responsibility for administration of the tests in that jurisdiction. TAAs are listed in section 12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test administrator</td>
<td>Test administrators are teachers, school staff members, school support staff who are involved in delivering (administering) the NAPLAN tests to students. Test administrators are not permitted to assist students by writing answers or shading in bubbles for them. For information on adjustments available for students who require assistance in order to access the tests, refer to section 6 ‘Adjustments for students with disability’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test period</td>
<td>The test period encompasses the three official days of test administration (10–12 May 2016)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test security period</td>
<td>The test security period starts as soon as secure NAPLAN materials are received by a school, and runs until Friday in the week following the official test days (20 May 2016)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
12 TEST ADMINISTRATION AUTHORITY CONTACT DETAILS

TAAs should be contacted for questions and advice relating to the administration of the NAPLAN tests, including state- and territory-based practices, advice regarding the appropriate implementation of the protocols, and any issues arising during the administration of the tests.

ACT
Senior Manager, Planning and Reporting
ACT Education and Training Directorate
GPO Box 158
Canberra ACT 2601
Tel.: (02) 6207 5892
Web: www.det.act.gov.au

NSW
Senior Test Administration Officer, NAPLAN
Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards
117 Clarence Street
Sydney NSW 2000
Tel.: (02) 9367 8131
Web: www.bostes.nsw.edu.au

NT
Senior Manager National Assessment
Curriculum, Assessment and Standards
Department of Education
GPO Box 4821
Darwin NT 0801
Tel.: (08) 8944 9245
Web: www.education.nt.gov.au

QLD
Manager, NAPLAN
Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority
PO Box 307
Spring Hill QLD 4004
Tel.: (07) 3864 0481
Web: www.qcaa.qld.edu.au

SA
Manager, Student Achievement Information
Educational Measurement
Department for Education and Child Development
31 Flinders Street
Adelaide SA 5000
Tel.: (08) 8226 2470
Web: www.decd.sa.gov.au

TAS.
Director
Educational Performance Services
Department of Education
GPO Box 169
Hobart TAS 7001
Tel.: (03) 6165 5706
Web: www.education.tas.gov.au

VIC
Manager, Assessment Programs
Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority
Assessment Programs Unit
Level 1, 2 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
Tel.: 1800 648 637
Web: www.vcaa.vic.edu.au

WA
Manager, K–10 Testing
School Curriculum and Standards Authority
PO Box 316
Cannington WA 6107
Tel.: (08) 9442 9460
Web: www.scsa.wa.edu.au

ACARA can be contacted for general queries about the NAPLAN program:
ACARA
Tel.: 1300 895 563
Level 10, 255 Pitt Street
Sydney NSW 2000
Web: www.nap.edu.au
PART B: Implementation of NAPLAN 2016 in Victoria

INTRODUCTION

The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) is the Test Administration Authority responsible for the implementation of NAPLAN in Victoria.

Following is detailed information relating to practices and procedures for the implementation of NAPLAN in Victoria. It is provided to enable principals and NAPLAN coordinators to prepare for the administration of the 2016 tests.

Principals are asked to ensure that they, and all relevant personnel, have read and understood all the information provided in Parts A and B of this Handbook.

This Handbook is supported by other publications related to NAPLAN administration and reporting, including the Test Administration Handbook for Teachers which will be distributed to schools with the NAPLAN test packages from Tuesday 26 April.

The VCAA will communicate regularly with schools prior to the tests and other important information about NAPLAN 2016 can be found on the VCAA website at www.vcaa.vic.edu.au.

PRIVACY POLICY STATEMENT

The VCAA is committed to the protection of student information generated by NAPLAN. All personal information collected during NAPLAN is used in accordance with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014. In order to conduct the NAPLAN tests, the VCAA collects names and achievement data of all students who undertake the Year 3, Year 5, Year 7 and Year 9 tests. The VCAA also collects information on student gender, language background, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) status, Victorian Student Number (VSN) and date of birth.

The VCAA supports schools’ privacy compliance with NAPLAN testing requirements by encouraging principals to ensure that their parent communities are aware of the purposes for which NAPLAN data will be used.

The VCAA uses the student information provided by schools to pre-print individual student details on the front cover of the test books and to report to parents on their child’s performance. This data is also provided to the school to assist principals to analyse the effectiveness of their school programs and to identify individual student’s strengths and weaknesses.

Schools across Australia are required to collect background characteristic information for all students participating in NAPLAN. The VCAA, on behalf of all Victorian schools, will be responsible for the management and supply of this information for national reporting purposes.
The information that will be required for each student is as follows:

- parental school education (mother and father as applicable)
- parental non-school education (mother and father as applicable)
- main language spoken at home (student)
- main language spoken at home (mother and father as applicable)
- parental occupation
- country of birth.

No individual student will be identifiable in the information released for national reporting purposes.

The principal will ensure that all student details and results are kept confidential.

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE (SUMMARY)

Principals play a key role in ensuring the successful implementation of NAPLAN in their schools. All principals are required to submit a Statement of Compliance demonstrating their understanding of their responsibilities in relation to security, implementation and administration of the tests. The Statement of Compliance is submitted electronically through the NAPLAN Test Administration website and Principals should contact the NAPLAN Helpdesk if they require any assistance with this process. Please see Appendix 1: Statement of Compliance for further details.

By completing the Statement of Compliance, principals acknowledge their responsibility for maintaining for the overall security and confidentiality of the tests, and for ensuring that all National Protocols for Test Administration (the Protocols) are adhered to in their school. The Protocols are printed in Part A of this handbook and principals should ensure that all staff members involved in NAPLAN have read them carefully prior to the tests.

AUTHORISED STAFF

In order to ensure timely and secure delivery of NAPLAN test and reporting packages, schools are required to complete an online registration of authorised staff. Couriers will be instructed to release test packages only to authorised staff. Please keep this in mind when nominating authorised staff and include relevant persons (e.g. front office staff) who will be available to take delivery of the test packages.

Principals must authorise at least one, and a maximum of five, staff members to receive the test packages. It is strongly recommended that at least three staff members are authorised to take delivery.

Registration of authorised staff needs to be submitted through the NAPLAN Test Administration website (see page 35) by Friday 26 February 2016.

Staff can also be registered via the NAPLAN Test Administration website to receive email updates from the VCAA related to the administration of the NAPLAN tests.
NAPLAN COORDINATOR

It is recommended that principals nominate a NAPLAN coordinator to lead the setup, planning and administration of the NAPLAN tests. NAPLAN coordinators must ensure that all procedures outlined in this Handbook and the Test Administration Handbook for Teachers are adhered to. In conjunction with principals, NAPLAN coordinators should refer to the Principal and NAPLAN Coordinators’ Checklist for critical dates on page iii of this Handbook.

In addition, the VCAA requests that the school provide the name and email address of the school’s NAPLAN coordinator via the NAPLAN Test Administration website. This will provide the VCAA with a liaison person who can be contacted regarding specific follow-ups and queries.

THE NAPLAN TEST ADMINISTRATION WEBSITE

The VCAA provides schools with the secure NAPLAN Test Administration website to enable a range of administrative tasks to be completed online. The website will be released in two phases; the enrolment phase and the test phase.

During the enrolment phase the following tasks are to be completed by all schools:

- Completing the ‘Statement of Compliance’
- Registering authorised staff
- Reviewing school contact and address details
- Uploading student registration data (for independent schools only)
- Ordering alternative format test books eg. large print, black and white or braille.
  (See page 39 for more information regarding these formats.)

The NAPLAN Test Administration website address is https://www.naplanadmin.vic.edu.au. This is a secure website that requires a user ID and password to log in. The login details are provided to principals in the letter accompanying this Handbook.

Detailed instructions to assist schools with completing tasks during the enrolment phase of the website are available on the VCAA website:

The website will be updated with student enrolment information and will be released to schools in April for the following pre-test activities related to student participation in the tests:

- Producing personalised Exemption and Withdrawal forms
- Adding details of new students
- Printing Student Attendance forms (if required)
- Requesting the use of a Scribe and Assistive Technology. (if required)

All schools are required to record student attendance, including withdrawals and exemptions, via the NAPLAN Test Administration website.
Schools will be able to either:

• use the site during test days to record attendance during test sessions, or:
• print attendance forms prior to the tests, record attendance manually on the printed forms and then enter the information into the website.

Following the completion of the tests, the school principal is required to finalise all information via the Test Administration website. This includes confirming all exemptions, withdrawals, withhold results and disability adjustments on the website by **Thursday 19 May 2016**.

Full instructions for the use of this website during the test phase will be made available in term 2.

**COMMUNICATING WITH PARENTS**

It is important that parents understand the purpose of the NAPLAN tests. Schools may notify parents prior to NAPLAN about the nature, purpose and timing of the tests by one or more of the following methods:

• a letter sent directly to parents (schools can use or modify the sample letter on page 47)
• as part of a regular school newsletter
• as part of a parent/teacher interview.

Schools should also ensure that the *Information for Parents* brochures are distributed. Schools will be notified in early 2016 of the online availability of the brochure (including in languages other than English). Copies of the brochure will be sent with the test package.

**CANDIDACY AND STUDENT PARTICIPATION**

As detailed in the Statement of Compliance and National Protocols, it is expected that schools will maximise student participation in the NAPLAN tests for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

Principals and NAPLAN coordinators should refer to Part A, Section 5 of this Handbook (see page 8) for information relating to the National Protocols that apply to student participation in the tests. This includes:

• expectations for student participation
• assessed, absent, exempt and withdrawn students
• students who do not attempt the tests
• international fee-paying students.

Principals and NAPLAN coordinators are reminded to utilise all available options to ensure that each student has an opportunity to undertake the tests. This includes catch-ups for individual students who are absent on test days and disability accommodations (where appropriate).

The following pages in this Handbook provide information further to Part A on issues related to participation in the tests in Victoria.
RECORDS OF EXEMPTIONS AND STUDENT WITHDRAWALS

Personalised forms for recording student exemptions and withdrawals will be available for printing via the Test Administration website. These forms will be available for printing from mid-April, after student enrolment is completed. Further information regarding completion of these forms will be supplied in April.

The Record of Exemption form is also available in languages other than English via the Test Administration website.

Principals are reminded that final decisions regarding student exemption or withdrawal from the NAPLAN tests rest with parents or carers. Under no circumstances should a student be exempted or withdrawn from the NAPLAN without signed approval of the parent or carer prior to the commencement of the tests.

Please note that fully signed Records of Exemption and Student Withdrawal forms must be kept at the school for at least 12 months and made available to the VCAA upon request.

ADJUSTMENTS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY

See Part A Section 6 Adjustments for Students with Disability (page 12) for details of allowable adjustments for students with disability and of student eligibility.

Principals are reminded that, as described in Part A Section 6.4 (page 14), they are required to:

- consult with and receive agreement from, parent or carer prior to testing regarding possible disability adjustments for their child/children
- keep appropriate records of parental consent for adjustments for students with disability
- ensure that all adjustments for students with disability are accurately recorded on the Test Administration website when recording student attendance for the tests.
ACCOMMODATIONS THAT REQUIRE PRE-APPROVAL FROM THE VCAA FOR DISABILITY ADJUSTMENTS

The following accommodations require pre-approval from the VCAA:

- the use of a scribe for the Writing test
- the use of assistive technology
- the use of an electronic test format.

Application to use a scribe for the Writing test

Permission for an eligible student to use a scribe in the Writing test must be sought and approved by the VCAA prior to the test. A trained scribe is permitted to assist a student to complete the Writing test only where the student usually uses a scribe in the classroom and where the student would be unable to access a pencil and paper test without the use of a scribe. Students and scribes must be familiar with the scribing process and rules listed in Part A Section 6.5 (pages 14 - 15).

Principals should also note that scribes are not permitted for students with temporary injuries in the Writing test, Part A Section 6.10 (page 18).

All applications to use a scribe for the Writing test are to be completed via the Test Administration Website. This will be available from mid April and all applications must be lodged by Monday 2 May 2016.

The VCAA will advise the school as to the outcome of the application to use a scribe for the Writing test.

Application to use assistive technology (including computers)

Permission for the use of assistive technology, including a computer, must be sought and approved by the VCAA prior to the tests. Different technologies may be appropriate for different tests if these are the usual practices for this student in all classroom assessments.

Further information regarding guidelines for this application can be found in Part A Section 6.7 of this Handbook (page 16).

All applications for Assistive Technology are to be completed via the Test Administration Website. This will be available from mid April and all applications must be lodged by Monday 2 May 2016.

The VCAA will advise the school as to the outcome of the application to use assistive technology.

Application to use an electronic test format

The electronic format enables students to answer questions on screen and may be appropriate for students with disabilities who use a computer as part of their usual adjustments when participating in classroom assessment and are not able to otherwise access the tests through any other adjustments available including the use of a computer.

Further information regarding the use of electronic test format can be found in Part A Section 6.9 of this Handbook (page 18).
Requests for electronic test format must be submitted via the Test Administration Website by Friday 26 February 2016.

The VCAA will advise the school as to the outcome of the electronic test format application.

**LARGE PRINT, BLACK AND WHITE, AND BRAILLE MATERIALS**

All NAPLAN test materials will be available in large print and braille formats and A4 size black and white. Requests for large print, black and white or braille material will need to be ordered online through the NAPLAN Test Administration website (see page 35).

The formats available in large print are described below:

- **N18** – A3 size paper, questions displayed as per standard book
- **N18A** – A4 size paper, approximately three questions per page
- **N24** – A3 size paper, approximately two questions per page
- **N24A** – A4 size paper, approximately two questions per page
- **N36** – A3 size paper, approximately one question per page.

The format available for braille is Unified English Braille Code (UEB). This can either be requested in Grade 1 Uncontracted or Grade 2 Contracted, single or double spacing.

The default format supplied for NAPLAN is Grade 2 Contracted single space braille.

Alternative test formats should only be used for students that cannot complete standard pen and paper test format and who generally access their classroom assessments in this manner.

Requests for large print, black and white or braille materials must be submitted by Friday 26 February 2016.

**HOSTED AND VISITING STUDENTS**

As outlined in Part A Section 5.8 (page 11), principals are encouraged to facilitate the participation of visiting students. The VCAA will assist with arrangements for students who will be away from their regular locations (e.g. visiting interstate) at the time of the tests and wish to sit the tests at a host school. Principals should advise the student’s parents to contact the VCAA on 1800 648 637 to discuss arrangements in these cases.

Blank test books should be provided to visiting students and the home school of the student must be clearly written on the front cover of each test book.

The principal at the host school is responsible for ensuring that the visiting student’s test books are returned, by secure post, to the appropriate TAA (see page 32 for TAA contact details). The parent or carer will be asked to cover the cost of the postage.
HOME-SCHOOLED STUDENTS

Victorian students registered for home schooling are eligible to partially enrol at their neighbourhood government school for specific activities, including the NAPLAN tests. If your school receives a request from a home schooled student, contact the NAPLAN Helpdesk to make arrangements.

Additional information can be found on the DET website at:

REQUEST TO VARY TEST DATES FOR CLASSES OR GROUPS OF STUDENTS

Details relating to the testing timetable are provided in Part A Section 8.4 (pages 22 - 23).

The tests must be administered in the order, on the dates and within the times specified in the timetables provided. Under no circumstances may a test be conducted before the scheduled test date.

As stated in Part A Section 8.4.2 (page 23) schools with compelling reasons that are outside of their control (for example, where a local public holiday occurs during the testing period) will be able to request permission to participate in the tests in the week after the official testing dates up to Friday 20 May 2016. This option is only available for classes or groups of students, and not for individual students. (For information about catch-up assessments for individual students, see page 43.) Please note that school excursions or camps are not accepted as valid reasons to vary test dates.

The Request to Vary Dates for NAPLAN 2016 form should be completed and returned to the VCAA by Friday 26 February 2016.

Victorian government and Catholic schools require approval from the appropriate sectoral authority before applying to the VCAA for a variation to NAPLAN test dates.

Prior to sending the form to the VCAA:
- government schools should send the form to their DET, Regional Director or Assistant Regional Director for approval (see page 49 for contact details)
- Catholic schools should send the form to the appropriate Catholic Education Office for approval (see page 49 for contact details).

Independent schools should return the form directly to the VCAA via email: vcaa.naplan.help@edumail.vic.gov.au or via fax: (03) 9225 2334.

The VCAA will confirm the outcome of the request for a variation.
If a variation to the testing dates is approved, the school will be responsible for the return of completed test books by registered post or secure courier to:

VCAA Assessment Centre  
c/- Pearson Research and Assessment  
100 Station Street  
Nunawading VIC 3131

These are to be forwarded at the school’s expense, no later than Friday 20 May 2016.

DELIVERY OF THE TEST PACKAGES

Delivery of the NAPLAN test packages will begin on Tuesday 26 April 2016. NAPLAN coordinators should brief authorised staff about the pending arrival of the test packages and record the name of the staff member who signs for receipt from the courier. If you do not receive your test package by 4.00 pm on Tuesday 3 May 2016, please contact the NAPLAN Helpdesk on 1800 648 637 or email vcaa.naplan.help@edumail.vic.gov.au. Please note that test packages must be securely stored as soon as they are received.

Document the receipt, tracking, storage and distribution of the test materials in the Test Materials Security Log. This log will accompany the NAPLAN test packages.

Secure test materials will be packed separately in tamper evident bags within the consignment. The packing slip should be used to check that the correct quantity of materials has been provided.

The number of test books and stimulus materials included in the package is based on the pre-enrolment and census data provided for each year level. Extra copies of all materials are provided to allow for new enrolments.
SECURITY OF TEST MATERIALS

Principals should ensure that they have read and adhered to the responsibilities described in Part A Section 4 (page 6) of this Handbook, and ensure that the test security period is maintained up to and including Friday 20 May 2016.

The VCAA will conduct security audits of randomly selected school storage facilities for the NAPLAN test materials. The test materials are to be kept in a double secure area. The security storage should meet one of the following criteria:

- A locked filing cabinet which is in a locked storeroom/office which is accessible only by authorised staff.
- A locked safe which is in a locked storeroom/office which is accessible only by authorised staff.
- A locked, sealed container which is in a locked storeroom/office which is accessible only by authorised staff.

While the test materials are held in the school prior to, during and after the testing period, any direct access to them within the secure area is to be recorded in the Test Materials Security Log supplied with the NAPLAN test materials. The Test Materials Security Log should be kept by the school for 12 months after the tests and may be subject to audit by the VCAA.

OBSERVATION AND AUDIT VISITS TO SCHOOLS

During 2016, the VCAA will continue to conduct observation visits and security audits of selected schools throughout Victoria. The main focus of these visits is to:

- check the security arrangements for the test materials at the school
- review and audit the relevant documentation
- provide advice on the conduct of the tests.

Test observers visit schools across the state on one or more days during the testing period to observe the conduct of the tests and provide advice and assistance to schools to ensure they comply with all test administration requirements.

All schools participating in either the observation visits or the security audits will be notified prior to the visits taking place.

It is expected that all NAPLAN tests are administered professionally and ethically. The VCAA treats test security very seriously and routinely undertakes a variety of checks to ensure the integrity of Victoria’s NAPLAN test data.
STANDARD CONDITIONS FOR TEST SUPERVISION

To ensure that all NAPLAN tests are delivered uniformly across the country, comprehensive instructions for test administrators will be provided in the Test Administration Handbook for Teachers, arriving closer to the tests. Test administrators should familiarise themselves with these instructions prior to the tests.

Test administrators are the critical link in ensuring the ultimate validity and fairness of the tests and it is important that they:

- deliver the test instructions accurately
- encourage student participation
- monitor student conduct
- ensure that students work independently.

Further information relating to standard conditions for test supervision are provided in Part A of this Handbook and test administrators should also be familiar with the guidelines outlined in the Code of Conduct (page 3) and with the protocols listed in Part A Section 8.6 Administering the tests – appropriate behaviours (pages 24 - 25).

CATCH-UP ASSESSMENTS FOR INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS

Principals are encouraged to facilitate catch-up tests for individual students who are absent on the day of one or more tests but who return to school by the Friday of test week. Arrangements should be made for these students to sit the tests they have missed on either the afternoon of the tests days or on Friday 13 May 2016.

Students who are absent on all test days should not however, be expected to complete all of the tests on Friday 13 May 2016 and should be marked as absent for the tests they were unable to complete.

COLLECTION OF TEST MATERIALS

Unless otherwise notified by the VCAA, schools are required to have completed test materials ready for collection by 8.30 am on Monday 16 May 2016.
STUDENT RESULTS

NAPLAN Student Reports will be provided to schools around the middle of Term 3.
It is important that teachers be fully informed of the detailed results of each student and of
the results for their class as a whole, and that parents have the opportunity to discuss their
child's results with the school. The Student Reports will provide detailed information about
the achievement of each student. This information can be used to place the results in a wider
context that enables strategies and suggestions for learning improvement to be discussed with
parents or carers.

Student Reports are confidential documents containing personal information about
each student and how their results compare to others in Australia. Given the need for
confidentiality, schools should consider either a direct mail out of results to parents or carers
or direct issue to parents or carers, for example, through an information night or by collection
from the school.

Schools should retain evidence of distribution of reports to parents or carers at the school.

The NAPLAN 2016 test results will be available for schools to access via the secure NAPLAN
Data Service website when the Student Reports are released. Schools will need to use their
unique login and security password to access the data at

In addition, ACARA’s MySchool website contains school-level NAPLAN information at
www.myschool.edu.au.
APPENDIX 1: STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

In completing this Statement of Compliance, the principal agrees to observe the following:

Introduction

1. Ensure that staff involved in any aspect of NAPLAN at their school understands their responsibilities as stated in the National Protocols for Test Administration and Code of Conduct, printed at the start of this handbook.

2. Ensure that all National Protocols for Test Administration are adhered to in their school.

Test participation

1. Ensure that participation in the NAPLAN tests is actively promoted and that all eligible students are given the opportunity to participate.

2. Ensure that all procedures for exempting and withdrawing students are followed and that a form signed by the parent or carer is completed for each student who is exempted or withdrawn from the tests. (Under no circumstances should a student be exempted or withdrawn from the NAPLAN tests without prior signed approval).

3. Ensure that participation records for each test session are accurately completed and confirmed on the NAPLAN test administration website by Thursday 19 May 2016.

4. Ensure that all procedures for providing disability adjustments for students who require them to participate in the NAPLAN tests are followed.

5. Ensure that the parents of students who require disability adjustments are informed about, and have agreed to, the nature of the adjustments provided.

6. Encourage participation in catch-up tests for individual students who were absent on test days but who return to school by Friday 13 May 2016.

Security, audit and test supervision

7. Ensure that all contents and quantities of test materials are checked upon receipt, and the VCAA is immediately notified if extra materials are required or if evidence of tampering with the packaging is discovered.

8. Ensure that all test materials are immediately stored in double-secure storage (eg: a locked container or cabinet inside a locked room) when not in use and that no unauthorised person handles test materials for the duration of the test security period.

10. Ensure that test administrators are briefed about test procedures and disability adjustments, and that all tests are conducted in a manner consistent with the instructions in the NAPLAN Test Administration Handbook for Teachers (arriving with the NAPLAN Test package).

11. Notify the VCAA immediately of any breaches of test security.

12. Notify the VCAA immediately of test procedures which are inconsistent with directions in the National Protocols for Test Administration and the NAPLAN Test Administration Handbook for Teachers.

13. Ensure that VCAA representatives are able to visit the school to conduct test observations of the test and/or undertake audits of test security processes.

14. Ensure that fully signed Exemption and Withdrawal forms are kept at the school for at least 12 months after the tests and made available to the VCAA upon request.

Administration

15. Provide, via the Test Administration website, the names of staff authorised to receive test materials and ensure that all staff are briefed about the pending arrival of test materials.

16. Ensure that test materials are sorted and prepared for distribution to classes the day before each test, handed to test administrators on the morning of each test and returned to secure storage immediately after each test.

17. Ensure that all required test books are returned to the VCAA, according to the specifications in the NAPLAN Test Administration Handbook for Teachers and that all administrative forms are fully completed, signed and either returned to the VCAA, or kept on file at the school as required.

NAPLAN reports and NAPLAN data

18. Ensure that individual Student Reports are distributed to parents/carers in a timely manner after they are received at the school.

19. Ensure that all personnel who are given access to the school’s data through the NAPLAN Data Service treat that information in a confidential manner.
APPENDIX 2: SAMPLE LETTER TO PARENTS

(A copy of this letter can be found on the VCAA website at: http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Pages/schooladmin/forms/naplan/naplan.aspx)

Dear Parent/Carer

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) 2016 for Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 students will be held on Tuesday 10 May, Wednesday 11 May and Thursday 12 May 2016. NAPLAN tests assess student knowledge and skills in Writing, Reading, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy.

The results of the tests provide information for students, parents, teachers and principals which can be used to improve student achievement.

All students are expected to participate in the NAPLAN tests. During test week, catch-up tests will be available for individual students who are absent on test days. These students may undertake catch-up tests on the days in the test week after the scheduled test, up to and including Friday 13 May 2016.

Support can be arranged for students with disabilities, if the student regularly uses similar support for classroom assessment tasks.

Large print, braille, electronic and black and white versions of the tests are available for students that require them.

Exemptions may be granted to students with significant intellectual disabilities and to students who have been learning English for less than one year.

If your child is eligible for support due to disability or an exemption, you should discuss this with his/her teacher prior to the tests. Parental consent is required before any support due to disability or exemption is granted.

Students may be withdrawn from NAPLAN by their parent or carer. This is a matter for consideration by parents and carers in consultation with the principal. If, after consultation, you decide to withdraw your child, you must sign a Student Withdrawal form. These forms are available at the school.

Later in the year you will receive your child’s personal NAPLAN report. The report will describe your child’s particular skills in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy. The report will also show how your child performed in relation to national minimum standards. These describe the minimum acceptable standards for students across Australia.

I am confident that the information you receive as a result of your child’s participation in the NAPLAN tests will be valuable in helping you to assess your child’s progress in literacy and numeracy.

For more information about the tests, please visit the VCAA website at www.vcaa.vic.edu.au or the NAP website at www.nap.edu.au.

Yours sincerely

Principal
### Appendix 3: Request to Vary Dates – Years 3, 5, 7 and 9

The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) is a statutory authority established under the Education and Training Reform Act 2006. The VCAA is committed to protecting all personal information collected and handling this data in accordance with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014. All information collected will be kept secure and confidential.

Fax or email this form to the VCAA on (03) 9225 2334 or vcaa.naplan.help@edumail.vic.gov.au no later than Friday 26 February 2016.

**Proposed date for:**

**Language Conventions/Writing test**

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**Reading test**

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**Numeracy test/s**

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**Is your school a P-12 school?**  

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**Will you be conducting NAPLAN tests on 10, 11, 12 May 2016?**  

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**Reason for variation of date/s:**


**Principal/Head teacher’s Signature:**


**Government and Catholic schools must obtain written approval for this request from the appropriate sectoral authority before sending this form to the VCAA. Please fax this form to the appropriate sectoral authority.**

Independent schools should fax or email the form directly to the VCAA.

For Government and Catholic schools, it is the schools responsibility to fax or email this form back to VCAA once they have obtained approval from the appropriate sectoral authority.

**Approval by sectoral authority**

- Department of Education and Training
- Catholic Education Office Melbourne
- Regional Director
- Assistant Regional Director
- Director of Catholic Education Diocese
- Regional Manager

**Region:**

**Name:**

**Signature:**

**Date:**

It is important that sectoral authorities action this request promptly and forward the form back to the school as soon as possible.

The VCAA will notify the principal and the NAPLAN coordinator of the result of this request. If a variation to the testing dates is approved, the principal will organise the return of test booklets to the VCAA at the school’s expense. This will be no later than Friday 20 May 2016.

A copy of this form should be retained for school records.
## Contact Details for Regional Offices 2016

### Department of Education and Training Regional Offices

- **South Western Victoria**
  - **Geelong**
    - **Regional Director**: Matthew Dunkley
    - **Address**: PO BOX 2086, GEELONG 3220
    - **Telephone**: 5225 1000
    - **Fax**: 5225 1099
    - **Site Address**: 5A Little Ryrie St, GEELONG 3220

- **Ballarat**
  - **Regional Director**: Judy Rose
  - **Address**: 109 Armstrong St North, BALLARAT 3350
  - **Telephone**: 5337 8444
  - **Fax**: 5333 2135
  - **Site Address**: 109 Armstrong St North, BALLARAT 3350

- **Footscray**
  - **Regional Director**: Karen Cain
  - **Address**: PO BOX 2141, FOOTSCRAY 3011
  - **Telephone**: 8397 0300
  - **Fax**: 8397 0303
  - **Site Address**: 900/1 McNab Ave, FOOTSCRAY 3011

- **North Eastern Victoria**
  - **Glen Waverley**
    - **Regional Director**: Judy Rose
    - **Address**: Level 3, 295 Springvale Rd, GLEN WAVERLEY 3150
    - **Telephone**: 8392 9300
    - **Fax**: 8392 9333
    - **Site Address**: Level 3, 295 Springvale Rd, GLEN WAVERLEY 3150

- **Benalla**
  - **Regional Director**: Karen Cain
  - **Address**: PO Box 403, BENALLA 3672
  - **Telephone**: 8392 9500
  - **Fax**: 8392 9502
  - **Site Address**: 150 Bridge Street East, BENALLA 3672

- **Moe**
  - **Regional Director**: Judy Rose
  - **Address**: PO Box 381, MOE 3825
  - **Telephone**: 5127 0400
  - **Fax**: 5126 1933
  - **Site Address**: Cnr Kirk & Haigh Street, MOE 3825

- **Dandenong**
  - **Regional Director**: Judy Rose
  - **Address**: PO Box 5, DANDEngON 3175
  - **Telephone**: 8765 5600
  - **Fax**: 8765 5784
  - **Site Address**: 165 - 169 Thomas Street, DANDEngON 3175

- **North Western Victoria**
  - **Bendigo**
    - **Regional Director**: Judy Rose
    - **Address**: PO Box 442, BENDIGO 3550
    - **Telephone**: 5440 3111
    - **Fax**: 5442 3321
    - **Site Address**: 7 – 15 McLaren Street, BENDIGO 3550

- **Wangaratta**
  - **Regional Director**: Judy Rose
  - **Address**: PO Box 1181, WANGARATTA 3676
  - **Telephone**: 5723 0000
  - **Fax**: 5723 0033
  - **Site Address**: 71 Ryley Street, WANGARATTA 3677

- **Shepparton**
  - **Regional Director**: Judy Rose
  - **Address**: 36 Welsford Street, SHEPPARTON 3630
  - **Telephone**: 5831 3811
  - **Fax**: 5821 3077
  - **Site Address**: 36 Welsford Street, SHEPPARTON 3630

- **Warragul**
  - **Regional Director**: Judy Rose
  - **Address**: PO Box 322, WARRAGUL 3820
  - **Telephone**: 5622 6600
  - **Fax**: 5623 4258
  - **Site Address**: 6 Witon Street, WARRAGUL 3820

- **Southern Region**
  - **Regional Director**: Judy Rose
  - **Address**: PO Box 3014, MOORABBIN EAST 3189
  - **Telephone**: 9532 1922
  - **Site Address**: 602 South Road, MOORABBIN EAST 3189

### Catholic Education Melbourne

<table>
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<tr>
<th>OFFICE</th>
<th>NAME/TITLE</th>
<th>MAIL ADDRESS</th>
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<td>Melbourne</td>
<td>Mr Stephen Elder</td>
<td>PO Box 3, EAST MELBOURNE 8002</td>
<td>9267 0228</td>
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<td>James Goold House 228 Victoria Parade EAST MELBOURNE 3002</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ballarat</td>
<td>Ms Audrey Brown</td>
<td>PO Box 576, BALLARAT 3350</td>
<td>5337 7135</td>
<td>5331 5166</td>
<td>Catholic Education Office 5 Lyons Street South BALLARAT 3353</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sandhurst /</td>
<td>Mr Paul Desmond</td>
<td>PO Box 477, BENDIGO CENTRAL 3552</td>
<td>5443 2377</td>
<td>5441 5168</td>
<td>120 Hargreaves Street BENDIGO 3550</td>
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<td>PO Box 1181, WANGARATTA 3676</td>
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<td>Ms Maria Kirkwood</td>
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<td>6 Witon Street WARRAGUL 3820</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melbourne</td>
<td>Ms Deb Egan</td>
<td>PO Box 3014, MOORABBIN EAST 3189</td>
<td>9532 1922</td>
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<td>602 South Road MOORABBIN EAST 3189</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melbourne</td>
<td>Ms Marilyn Austerberry</td>
<td>PO Box 1121, CROYDON 3136</td>
<td>9724 0200</td>
<td>9724 0201</td>
<td>39 Hewish Road CROYDON 3136</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western</td>
<td>Mr John Mills</td>
<td>Cnr Howard &amp; Rosslyn Sts WEST MELBOURNE 3003</td>
<td>9329 8800</td>
<td>9326 7443</td>
<td>Cnr Howard &amp; Rosslyn Streets WEST MELBOURNE 3003</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western</td>
<td>Mr Robert Aron</td>
<td>47 Synnot Street, WERRIBEE 3030</td>
<td>9731 3900</td>
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