



National Assessment Program
Information and Communication Technology Literacy
Years 6 and 10

Information for Parents

During the period September to November 2008, a sample of Year 6 primary students and a sample of Year 10 secondary students from across Australia will take part in a national assessment of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) literacy.

The assessment will focus on ICT literacy as an essential skill across learning areas. Although there are many ICT tools available, the national assessment of ICT literacy will only use computers.

The purpose of the assessment is to inform schools, education Ministers and the community about the achievements of Australia's students. It is part of a national plan to monitor and report student achievement in the areas identified in *National Goals for Schooling in the Twenty-First Century*, which were agreed to by all State, Territory and federal education Ministers in 1999.

WHO WILL BE ASSESSED?

A sample of Year 6 students and a sample of Year 10 students will be assessed. Approximately eight per cent of the students for each year level across Australia will complete the assessment. Students will be selected by drawing a random sample of schools across Australia and then a sample of students within each of these schools.

All students who have been identified in the random sample will be expected to take part in the assessment. Students will attempt the entire national assessment on computers connected via the Internet to a secure website. The assessment will be managed in schools by trained supervisors.

HOW WILL THE ASSESSMENTS BE CONDUCTED?

The students will complete a computer based test on a date selected by their school within the testing period September–November 2008. The assessment will be conducted at the students' regular school on the school's own computers or in a temporary computer lab set up by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) using supplied laptop computers. The assessment will be conducted by a supervisor from outside the school. The supervisor will be trained to administer the assessments in a consistent way across schools participating in the national assessment.

Some of the assessment items will be scored automatically by programs installed on the server computer while other tasks will be marked by trained experts.

HOW WILL THE RESULTS BE USED?

The main purpose of the national Year 6 and Year 10 assessment of ICT literacy is to monitor and report on the overall progress being made towards achieving high standards of ICT literacy. However, there will be a number of other valuable products and benefits from the assessment program.

Schools taking part in the sample assessment will receive reports summarising their students' results.

A national public report describing students' achievements in ICT literacy will be published. No individual schools or students will be identified in this report. The report will include comparisons of the achievements of various groups of students – for example, the relative achievements of:

- boys and girls
- metropolitan students and rural students
- students in each State and Territory.

If you have any questions about the Year 6 or Year 10 national assessment of ICT literacy, please talk to your child's teacher or school principal.

Students are NOT expected to study for this assessment. The assessment is designed to assess your child's knowledge and understanding of ICT literacy. Last-minute preparation is unnecessary.