BUILDING BLOCKS FOR EDUCATION
Whole system reform in Australia

Dr Michele Bruniges
Deputy Secretary—Schools
Productivity, participation and population are important factors

- Over the past 40 years, real GDP growth has averaged 3.3 per cent a year. This is predicted to fall to 2.7 per cent over the next 40 years.
- The ageing of the population will see the number of people aged 65 to 84 years more than double and the number of people 85 years and over more than quadruple.
- The number of people of working age to support every person aged 65 years and over is expected to decline from 5 people now to 2.7 by 2050.
Education is a crucial driver of Productivity and Participation

• School outcomes affect productivity and participation.

• The benefit of extra education is around 10 per cent a year in increased income.

• In 2006, the unemployment rates for men and women with no post-school qualifications (aged 25–64) were 2.9 and 1.3 percentage points higher than for those with some post-school qualifications.

• Participation rates for those with post-school education have also been found to be consistently around 15 percentage points higher than for those with no post-school education.
Education is critical to Australia’s future prosperity

“We are committed to building a dynamic, high performing school system. A system in which excellence and equity are inseparable and every child is entitled to aspire to the highest achievement.”

Prime Minister Gillard, 27 March 2009

- A revolution in the quality of investment
- A revolution in the quantum of the investment
- Built on excellence and equity
- New emphasis on transparency and accountability
Delivering a world class curriculum is critical

The Australian national curriculum will:

- Set the content and achievement standards from which we will measure success
- Set high expectations for all
- Be benchmarked internationally
- Define 21st Century learning for students
- Support 21st Century teaching.
Australian Early Development Index

Data collected in first year of school across five domains:

- Physical health and wellbeing
- Social competence
- Emotional maturity

- Language and cognitive skills
- Communication skills and general knowledge
National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy

- Introduced in 2008
- Provides full cohort testing across Australia – Years 3, 5, 7, 9
- Uses a 10 band reporting scale
- Sets National minimum standards in Years 3, 5, 7, 9
- Provides individual student reports to parents/carers
National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy

National Assessment Program — Literacy and Numeracy
National Assessment Scale

Band 10
Band 9
Band 8
Band 7
Band 6
Band 5
Band 4
Band 3
Band 2
Band 1

Year 3
Year 5
Year 7
Year 9

Students are above the national minimum standard
Students are at the national minimum standard
Students are below the national minimum standard
Students are below the national minimum standard
Students are at the national minimum standard
Students are at the national minimum standard
Students are above the national minimum standard
Students are above the national minimum standard
Students are above the national minimum standard
Transparency as a centrepiece of reform

Establishment and release of *My School* website provides information on 10,000 schools. My School compares the performance of a school:
- From year to year
- Relative to the National Average
- Relative to statistically similar schools
Elsewhere Primary School, Brisbane City

**School statement**
Elsewhere Primary School is situated in Brisbane in the south-eastern suburbs of Queensland. The school originally had accommodation for 100 students; however, over the years the original classrooms have been converted to spacious, multi-purpose rooms and staff meeting areas. The grounds are extensive, and include a football and cricket grounds owned by the local Council. At present, there are 700 students enrolled. Elsewhere Primary has an open entry policy, with no entrance examinations or particular entrance requirements. Elsewhere Primary has a proud history of social service and students participate in a variety of activities including fund-raising or active community service participation. Elsewhere Primary operates a healthy choice canteen to ensure all our students understand the importance of health and well-being and develop excellent eating habits during the school day. The school also offers after-school care and a free active after school club. Over the last year, we have entered into academic partnerships with some local businesses to improve career pathways and learning opportunities for our students. Visit the school website.

**NAPLAN Results**
The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) assesses all students in Australian schools in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. NAPLAN results are available online for participating schools, and you can find the NAPLAN website.

The chart below displays average NAPLAN scores for each domain in 2008 and 2009. The selected school's scores are displayed in blue. Also displayed are average scores for similar schools and all Australian schools. The coloured bars indicate whether the selected school's scores are above (green) or below (red) the other scores.

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<th>2009</th>
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**Senior secondary outcomes**
- **Year 12 results**
- Senior secondary certificate awarded: 215
- Completed senior secondary school: 216
- Vocational Education and Training (VET)
  - Awarded VET qualification: 105
  - Undertook SBAT: 15
- Post-school destinations
  - Students at university: 44%
  - Students at TAFE/vocational study: 32%
  - Students in employment: 12%

**School facts**

- **School sector**: GOVT
- **School type**: Primary
- **Year range**: K-7
- **Total enrolments**: Boys 450, Girls 230
- **Indigenous students**: 3%
- **Location**: Metropolitan
- **Student attendance rate**: 95%
- **Teaching staff**: 30
- **Full-time equivalent teaching staff**: 18
- **Non-teaching staff**: 6
- **Full-time equivalent non-teaching staff**: 4

**School ICSEA value**: 927
Elsewhere Primary School, Brisbane QLD

School statement:

Elsewhere Primary School has a proud history of social and education programs, including fund raising and active outings for students. The school also offers after school care and activities.

Over the last year, we have welcomed many local businesses to improve the lives of our students. Visit the school website for more information.

NAPLAN Results:

The National Assessment Program (NAPLAN) assesses all students in Years 3, 5, 7, and 9. The chart below displays the NAPLAN results for the year 2009. The selected schools have been compared to similar schools. The average scores for students are shown in the table, and the colour of the bars indicates the school's performance: green for above average, yellow for average, and red for below average.

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Quality teaching is central to effective learning

Teacher Quality National Partnership:
• New professional standards
• Recognition and reward
• Professional learning framework
• National consistency in registration
Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL)

- Promoting excellence in school leadership
- Developing rigorous national professional standards
- Fostering and driving high quality professional learning for school leaders
- Delivering the Leading Australia's Schools
A strengthened governance and funding framework helps drive national reforms
We would expect:

• Teachers to have the benefit of a national curriculum aligned with assessment
• Our best and brightest teachers to be celebrated and rewarded
• To see policy, curriculum, assessment and reporting is worlds best practice
• Students will have skills necessary to meet the demands of 21st Century workplaces
• Students will find school motivating and enjoyable thanks to the high expectations and passion of their teachers
References


ACARA, My School, www.myschool.edu.au


MCEECDYA, National Report on Schooling in Australia 2008


