

---

## **NAPLAN Proficiency Standard expert panels**

ACARA will be conducting a standard-setting exercise to assist with setting new proficiency standards for NAPLAN. As such we are seeking nominations from teachers, curriculum and/or assessment experts to participate in expert panels for each of the NAPLAN domains and year levels.

### **Background**

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. NAPLAN is made up of tests in the four areas (or ‘domains’) of writing; reading; language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy.

In 2017 ACARA conducted a standard-setting exercise with the aim of developing Proficient and Highly Proficient standards in each of the NAPLAN domains. While standards were identified, they were not formally adopted.

ACARA is now planning to repeat a similar exercise to refine these standards, for two reasons:

1. It is planned that the measurement scales in each NAPLAN domain will be reset now that the transition to online delivery of a tailored test is complete.
2. With NAPLAN moving earlier in the year, the expectations of proficiency at the time the test is delivered may need to be reconsidered.

To conduct the exercise, ACARA will convene 20 expert panels to cover:

- 5 domains (Reading, Numeracy, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation, Writing)
- 4 year levels (Year 3, Year 5, Year 7, Year 9)

Each panel will be responsible for setting the Proficient and Highly Proficient standards for that year level and domain, as well as reconsidering the expectations of the National Minimum Standard.

Each panel will comprise no less than 6 members and no more than 12, depending on nominations received. This means at least 120 panel participants are required.

### **Expert panel nominations**

ACARA is seeking nominations to join the expert panels, by Friday 18 July.

Panellists will be experienced teachers with high expertise in the relevant subject area at that year of schooling, or experts in curriculum and/or assessment.

ACARA encourages nominations of experts who would be able to participate in more than one panel, depending on time commitments.

Participation on the panels offers an excellent opportunity for professional development, by deep investigation of how student proficiency should be categorised.

An honorarium of \$400 will be paid to all participants in recognition of their time and expertise.

Panels will be convened remotely (online) from late-July through August. Separate schedules will be developed for each panel once nominations are received.

We estimate that panel members will be required for 10 hours as follows:

- Introductory meeting (1 hour)
- Background reading (2 hours)
- Initial training session (2 hours)
- Independent judgements of proficiency (3 hours)
- Discussion and confirmation of standards (2 hours)

Where possible, and to accommodate different time zones, all panels will be held out of school hours in the late afternoon or early evening.

Panel members will be asked to consider a set of NAPLAN items (or writing responses), ordered by difficulty, and decide whether the items would be answered correctly by students who meet each of the three standards (i.e, highly proficient, proficient, or national minimum standard).

## Panel composition

ACARA is seeking nominations from panellists representing metropolitan, regional and remote areas, from all states and territories. The table below shows the anticipated distribution of panellists by jurisdiction.

	<i>Min</i>	<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Expert (curriculum/ assessment)</i>	<i>Maximum</i>
NSW	40	30	10	70
VIC	35	27	8	60
QLD	25	19	6	45
WA	15	11	4	20
SA	10	8	2	15
TAS	5	8	2	10
ACT	5	8	2	10
NT	5	4	1	10

To ensure that all panels have at least 6 participants, it is requested that states and territories nominate at least the minimum number of representatives, approximately divided between practising teachers and experts in curriculum or assessment, as shown in the table. Any further nominations, up to the maximum number shown, are also welcomed, and would be accommodated within larger panels.

## Contact

If you have any queries, please reach out to Stephen Phillip via email ([Stephen.Phillip@acara.edu.au](mailto:Stephen.Phillip@acara.edu.au)).

Nominations for panel participants, along with their preferred panel(s), can be forwarded by 18 July 2022, through to the [NationalPMO@acara.edu.au](mailto:NationalPMO@acara.edu.au).