



Sue Paulka
Catholic Diocese of Ballarat

15 July 2021

Dear Sue,

I am writing to introduce you to a new initiative from ACER and share some exciting news.

A new academic competition for Australian students

Drawing on our expertise and experience in designing, developing and delivering international achievement studies, ACER is pleased to announce the launch of the '[Global Academic Challenge](#)' next month. The Global Academic Challenge is an internationally-referenced, academic competition for Australian students in Reading, Mathematics and Science. In late August 2021 we will be offering the competition for students in Year 4, Year 6 and Year 8.

In designing the Global Academic Challenge, ACER utilised our extensive organizational expertise in developing assessments that assess the application of skills and knowledge to real life contexts while remaining relevant to Australian curriculum. A unique feature of this competition is that schools will be able to access instant reporting with international comparisons. The international comparisons are drawn from ACER International Schools Assessment (ISA) program that has been delivered annually since 2003 and has a typical participation of 400 schools across the world. Many of these schools follow the International Baccalaureate, English National Curriculum and US curricula (including schools based in the United States).

Four to six weeks following the Challenge competition days, schools and students will receive the competition results detailing how each student performed in comparison to Australian peers. Medals and certificates of achievement will be awarded at this time as well.

The Global Academic Challenge costs \$15 per student per learning area. As a valued ACER partner, we would like to extend a special offer to your system's schools. Any of your schools that register for the Global Academic Challenge and use the voucher code **GACHallenge2021** will receive a 10% discount. We will also provide your system with participation information from your schools, including summaries of international comparisons and competition awards.

Working with the OECD, ACER to develop a new assessment for PISA in 2025

Our additional exciting news is that the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has selected ACER to develop a new assessment of Learning in the Digital World for the 2025 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA). Conducted every three years since 2000, PISA is a leading international survey that measures 15 year-old students' ability to apply their knowledge and skills to real-life problems and situations. In addition to measuring performance in reading, mathematics and science, each PISA cycle also assesses student proficiency in an 'Innovative Domain'. The announcement about ACER's involvement in the PISA 2025 Innovative Domain can be found [here](#).

ACER worked closely with the OECD to design, establish and implement the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) during its first five cycles (2000 to 2012), and has implemented all PISA cycles in Australia.

If you are interested in knowing more about the Global Academic Challenge or ACER's involvement in PISA, please feel free to contact me via jarrod.hingston@acer.org or 0439 979 446.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jarrod Hingston', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr Jarrod Hingston
Manager, School Assessment Services