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MEDIA RELEASE

**CONNECTED TO THE FUTURE:
AUSTRALIAN STUDENTS WELL-PREPARED FOR 21ST CENTURY LEARNING**

The Chair of the Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood, the Hon. Peter Collier MLC, today released the results of the 2011 National Assessment Program – Information & Communication Technologies Literacy testing program.

The tests are overseen by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority (ACARA) and taken every three years by a representative sample of Australian students in Years 6 and 10. “The results of the tests demonstrate that students have been improving in their ICT literacy since the introduction of the tests in 2005”, said Minister Collier.

The report also outlined findings that show high levels of interest and use of ICT products in daily life among young Australians.

“Technology shapes the world we live in, and will play a huge part in the way students in Australia and around the world live, work, and play. The ability to use information and communication technology effectively will substantially determine young Australians’ ability to compete in Australia and around the world. It is vital, therefore, that we have a good measure of our national progress in students’ development of ICT literacy”, said Professor Barry McGaw, Chair of ACARA.

Among the results, the study found that Year 6 students have significantly increased their ICT Literacy since 2008, whereas the performance of Year 10 students has remained relatively stable but still strong. The Study also found that girls recorded higher levels of ICT Literacy than boys. Even though female students expressed lower levels of interest and enjoyment than males in computing, they expressed similar levels of confidence in their ability to carry out ICT-based tasks without assistance, and they achieved higher scores on ICT Literacy than males.

The Study also obtained information from students about their use of technology, and found that 60 per cent of Year 6 students and over 80 per cent of Year 10 students use computers every day, a figure that has increased dramatically since 2005.

The Information & Communication Technologies Literacy tests were sat by 5,710 Year 6 students from 333 schools, and by 5,313 Year 10 students from 316 schools as part of the National Assessment Program.

A copy of the report can be downloaded from www.nap.edu.au

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