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MEDIA RELEASE

**AUSTRALIA'S SCHOOLS:
NATIONAL REPORT ON SCHOOLING RELEASED**

The Chair of the Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood (SCSEEC), the Hon. Adrian Piccoli MP, today released the *National Report on Schooling in Australia 2011*, the comprehensive annual report on the nation's school education sector.

Developed on behalf of state, territory and federal education ministers by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA), the report provides a snapshot of Australia's 9,435 schools, 3.54 million school students and 255,110 teachers for the 2011 calendar year.

It reports on agreed key performance measures for schooling, including enrolment, attendance, student achievement in national assessments and transitions to further education and work. A new chapter on student progression and retention shows rises in apparent progression rates of students to Years 10, 11 and 12 following the establishment of the National Youth Participation Requirement in all States and Territories.

"This report is an important piece of work that provides policy makers with a snapshot of the performance of school education in Australia. It offers a reference point for monitoring how we are progressing towards key national goals", said Minister Piccoli.

The National Report focuses on progress towards the Educational Goals for Young Australians agreed by Australian education ministers in the Melbourne Declaration of 2008 and on Council of Australian Governments (COAG) initiatives for school education through the National Education Agreement and National Partnerships.

Achievements in the development of the Australian Curriculum, in enhancing quality teaching and school leadership, in pursuing greater equity, in improved transparency in school reporting through the My School website, and in the National Assessment Program are summarised, highlighting the high level of collaboration between states and territories and the national government in school education.

The National Report is available via the ACARA website: www.acara.edu.au. Two further chapters, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education and Funding Australia's Schools, will be published at a later date.

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