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MEDIA RELEASE

RESULTS IN SCIENCE STEADY AND INTEREST HIGH

The National Assessment Program – Science Literacy (NAP-SL) tests and school surveys show that young Australians are holding steady in scientific knowledge and literacy.

The Chair of the Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood (SCSEEC), the Hon Adrian Piccoli MP, today released the results of 2012's National Assessment Program – Science Literacy (NAP-SL) tests.

“Test results show that science literacy at the national level has remained consistent in terms of student achievement with 51.4 % of students performing at or above the Proficient Standard,” Mr Piccoli said.

“Also heartening are the results of the survey which accompanied the test, which found that Australian students have an overwhelmingly positive attitude to science, with around 80 per cent agreeing they would like to study more science at school.”

The survey highlights the overwhelmingly positive attitude that Australian students have towards science. The great majority of students are interested in learning new things in science, learning about science and doing science activities.

Professor Barry McGaw, Chair of ACARA added, “For the most part, performance on the tests has remained steady. However, when placed in the context of other international assessments, these findings suggest that Australia could do better in primary school. We clearly need more students in Year 6 achieving this challenging but reasonable Proficient Standard if we are to see our international results moving up, rather than remaining stable or even declining.”

ACARA expects that as the Australian Curriculum: Science is increasingly embedded in schools, future improvement in Science Literacy will be seen.

Sample assessments in science literacy are held every three years as part of a cycle of triennial national sample assessments that include civics and citizenship and information and communication technology (ICT) literacy. In October 2012, around 13,000 students from 617 schools sat the NAP-SL tests.

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