

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the National Education Evidence Base – Draft Report.

ACARA agrees with the draft report's call for further data to be collected to support the monitoring of progress against measures of students' non-cognitive capabilities and wellbeing. To this end, ACARA is collaborating with states and territories to explore measurement of student wellbeing and engagement. However, the reference in the Draft Report to ACARA working to include assessments of general capabilities and in particular personal and social capability in the National Assessment Program (NAP) sample assessments needs additional explanation.

ACARA's submission noted that 'ACARA is currently working to expand the scope of the sample National Assessment Program (NAP) to address a number of general capabilities within the Australian Curriculum through the relevant learning areas'. It is important to note a number of points to clarify the scope of this work:

- 1) No final decisions have been taken in relation to this work, with the ACARA Board yet to consider specific proposals and the Education Council needing to endorse any changes to the basis for NAP sample assessment in relation to additional general capabilities.
- 2) ACARA will be looking at how some of the general capabilities contained in the Australian Curriculum could be addressed through the NAP sample assessments where these link to curriculum learning areas (science, civics and citizenship, history and digital technologies).
- 3) ACARA will examine its current NAP sample assessments - to identify if it is possible to embed some of the general capabilities in those assessments, with no new additional assessments planned. The expectation will be that any general capabilities assessed through existing programs will be embedded in content taught as part of the curriculum. That is, general capabilities would be addressed in the NAP sample assessments through the content of a particular learning area/subject.
- 4) ACARA might also provide advice on assessment of the general capabilities at the classroom level.