

## **SECTION FOUR**

### **THE YEAR LEVEL**

#### **4.1 General requirements**

In determining the year level for the Phase Two testing, it was considered desirable to target a year level towards the end of primary schooling. The decision was prompted by the fact that literacy assessment at earlier year levels may not be sufficiently stable to provide a basis for the establishment of the intended equivalences among States/Territories. In addition, the equivalences to be established will have a high degree of validity if the testing in Phase Two coincides with the States/Territories' own State/Territory-wide testing.

In appendix II a general alignment of primary school year levels against the number of years in formal schooling is described. The year level towards the end of primary schooling with most States/Territories administering State/Territory-wide testing is the sixth year. This translates into the following alignment:

- Year 5 ACT, NT, NSW, SA, Tas., and Vic.
- Year 6 QLD and WA.

As indicated above, most States/Territories administer their State/Territory-wide testing at the sixth year of schooling except the Northern Territory and Western Australia. The former tests at the Year 6 level and the latter at the Year 7 level.

#### **4.2 The proposed year level**

The Consortium proposes using the sixth year of schooling as the target year level. This would mean Year 5 students in some States/Territories and Year 6 students in others. As only the Northern Territory and Western Australia do not have State/Territory-wide testing in their sixth year of schooling, special arrangements are recommended for them. In the case of the Northern Territory, the major sample to be tested will be their Year 6 students, as indicated by the Northern Territory Department of Education. A small sub-sample of Year 5 students will also be tested to achieve the necessary link to the majority of States/Territories. In the case of Western Australia, the major group to be tested would be their Year 6 students, who will be at the same year level as students in the majority of States/Territories. Similarly to the Northern Territory, a small sub-sample of Year 7 students will be selected to provide the link to that year level.