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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Civics and citizenship test results: Aussie kids actively engaged in society**

Many students across Australia are actively engaged in their communities and have a good understanding of civics and citizenship, according to the latest national test results released today.

However, the National Assessment Program: Civics and Citizenship (NAP–CC) tests show that while approximately half of young Australians are holding steady in their knowledge of civics and citizenship, the remaining half have yet to meet the challenging, but achievable proficiency standard.

Chair of the Education Council, ACT Minister for Education Joy Burch MLA, released the results of the 2013 NAP–CC tests today, saying: 'Civics and citizenship student performance at the national level has remained relatively consistent across assessment cycles both in terms of mean student achievement and the proportion of students performing at or above the Proficient Standard'.

A survey, which students completed alongside the test, highlights the positive attitude Australian students have towards civics and citizenship.

'When asked about important behaviours for good citizenship, student rated participation in activities such as protecting the environment, promoting human rights, learning about Australia's history and activities that benefit the local community as most important,' said Minister Burch.

The 2013 NAP–CC assessments, which for the first time were conducted online, were previously conducted in 2004, 2007 and 2010. In each of the cycles about 12 000 students from nationally representative samples of children in Year 6 and Year 10 participated. The NAP–CC assessments are part of the broader National Assessment Program, which incorporates yearly NAPLAN testing and annual sample testing. The NAP Sample Program tests a sample of year 6 and year 10 students to obtain a snapshot of student abilities in key aspects of the curriculum, being Science Literacy, Information Communications Technology and Literacy and Civics and Citizenship.

Professor Barry McGaw, Chair of ACARA, said: 'Students tend to experience civic engagement first within their school context, with these experiences important for fostering future participation in a democratic society. It is pleasing to see that so many students have positive attitudes to participation as active citizens.'

‘While we recognise that the proficiency standard is challenging, a healthy society needs its young citizens to be capable of meeting this standard. I applaud the achievement of those students who have met the standard through the efforts of their schools, homes, and communities. I encourage all those involved in the education process to examine their approach and method of instruction so that three years from now, a greater percentage of students will reach the proficiency standard,’ said Professor McGaw.

The report is available at <http://www.nap.edu.au/results-and-reports/national-reports.html>

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