

DIRECTOR: JENNIFER GALE

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### Quality Moderation of Assessments Process (Qmap)

Contact: Meriloy Horsham, Andrew Mahoney

Qmap was introduced in 2005 and resulted in an extremely challenging and rewarding year for everyone involved. OER would like to acknowledge the work done by all teachers, principals, school moderators and assessment support leaders (ASLs) in achieving the goals set for reporting against the Essential Learnings Framework in 2005.

The commitment resulted in parents receiving relevant and comprehensive reporting of their children's progress based on our set of standards from K-10.

2006 reporting requirements will be fine tuned following discussions with the AEU, TPA and Tasmanian Council of Parents & Friends about Commonwealth reporting requirements and after gathering feedback on 2005 processes from teachers. These details will be notified to schools as soon as possible.

The OER Qmap team of Meriloy Horsham, Geraldine Carey (North West), Julie Briggs (North) and Chris Topfer (South) will continue to work with the ASLs in each cluster to assist teachers to meet the 2006 requirements. Assessment support to schools has been strengthened by the appointment of Libby Robinson (South) and Rachel Buck (North) who will work with the cluster based ASLs to provide focused support for teachers in years 7 – 10. A vacancy still exists in the North West, but hopefully an appointment will be made soon.

The Qmap days this year are allocated for moderation of the key elements to be assessed this year.

The Qmap dates are:

Monday 24 April and Monday 25 September – All branches  
Friday 27 October - South  
Friday 3 November – North  
Tuesday 7 November – North West

April 24 will be a cluster moderation day for all clusters.

The two remaining Qmap days are for school moderation and further cluster moderation.

**Information about the 2006 Guiding Assessment Task program will be released shortly**

### Kindergarten Development Check (KDC)

Contact: Suzanne Pennicott-Jones

The process for the implementation of the 2006 KDC in all kindergarten classes will be very similar to last year. There will be some minor changes to SARIS data entry which will be outlined in a letter to schools as soon as the changes are finalised. It is important that first assessment data is entered into SARIS by **Friday 26 May** as this will enable OER to analyse the data and send reports back to schools early in Term 2.

### Published Reports

Contact: Andrew Oakley

All published reports can be found on the OER internet site at [www.education.tas.gov.au/oer/](http://www.education.tas.gov.au/oer/) via the Reports link in the left border. Reports for 2005 will be published as they become available.

### Tasmanian Year 10 Certificate

Contact: Sharyn Lidster

The Tasmanian Year 10 Certificate was issued in December 2005 to all Year 10 students who achieved results against at least one of the *Essential Learnings* key elements. If any 2005 Year 10 students contact their school because they didn't receive a certificate, please direct them to Sharyn Lidster or Suzanne Pennicott-Jones. We are also able to re-issue certificates if they were damaged in the mail.

Extensive communication with employers occurred in 2005 and throughout 2006 we will continue to provide them with information about the Year 10 Certificate. If you know of employers who would like further information please contact Sharyn or Suzanne.

Information and guidelines about the Year 10 Certificate and information for employers can be found at the following link:

[www.education.tas.gov.au/oer/Year-10-assessment](http://www.education.tas.gov.au/oer/Year-10-assessment)

### Data Management Tips

Contact: Andrew Cuthbertson, Andrew Oakley

#### Absence Data

- The *Attendance, Participation and Retention of Students at School (Prep to Year 12) Strategic Policy 2003-2006* (see <http://connections.education.tas.gov.au/Nav/StrategicPolicy.asp?ID=00000845>) requires that schools ensure all student absences in 2006 are recorded accurately in SACS during the school year, including colleges. Data should be maintained on a regular and timely basis.
- Also see BSS Service Centre *Student Administration* for information on recording suspensions and absences in SACS.

#### Suspensions Information Management System (SIMS)

- Schools should continue to record all suspensions in SIMS. <http://staff.education.tas.gov.au/pages/imbdatawarehouse/>  
If you have problems entering a suspension you should, in the first instance, contact BSS (1800 816 057).
- *Viewing or Modifying Previously Recorded Suspensions*: Contact OER (Andrew Cuthbertson) if you need to change or delete a suspension.

#### Drug Related Incidents (DRI) System

- Schools should record all drug-related incidents in the DRI System. This includes incidents which do result in suspension, and those that do not result in suspension. See the *Management of Drug Issues and Drug Education in Tasmanian Government Schools and Colleges Policy* at <http://connections.education.tas.gov.au/Nav/StrategicPolicy.asp?ID=00000706>

### Educational Profile

Contact: Leanne Males

Phase 1 of the Educational Profile is available to principals at: [www.education.tas.gov.au/oer/edprofile](http://www.education.tas.gov.au/oer/edprofile)

During the first half of 2006 work will be undertaken to enhance the current data and to add new information to the site.

If you have suggestions regarding improvements, information you think should be available or you do not yet have access to the site please contact Leanne Males at OER.

## SARIS

Contact: Nigel Cross

Because there are many student and staff movements in the first few weeks of the year, SARIS will be available for use following the March 3<sup>rd</sup> Census date. The application will be much improved, thanks to the feedback of teachers in 2005.

Modifications are currently being included to speed navigation and editing. It is also anticipated that the Workbook component will be available early for trial in selected schools.

In 2005, there were over 480,000 individual assessments recorded with the majority of these being completed in November/December. Now that all teachers have received their training it is suggested that the entry of assessment information is paced throughout the year where possible.

## Performance Indicators in Primary Schools (PIPS)

Contact: Suzanne Pennicott-Jones

The PIPS packages were posted to schools in the first week of February 2006 and addressed to the Prep teacher/s. PIPS implementation is the same as in past years. Please ensure Prep teachers have the 2006 CD and manual (purple) and are well prepared for the assessments, paying particular attention to pages 3, 4 and 13 of the manual. This year all data files are to be submitted to PIPS Australia via PIPS+. To ensure efficient delivery of feedback all data **must** be sent to WA by the due date.

Please ensure that all Prep teachers provide students' **11 digit Ed Ids** when entering student details. This is vital for us to match first and second assessment data for system-wide analysis.

### First Assessment:

Monday 20 February – Friday 17 March

Data to WA by Friday 24 March.

### Second Assessment:

Monday 16 October – Friday 3 November

Data to WA by Friday 10 November

## Calibration

Contact: Heather Jatan

The calibration of the standards for *Being information literate* and *Acting democratically* is complete and the progression statements are available to schools. Thank you to those schools that assisted with this project in 2005. The calibration of the standards for *Investigating the natural and constructed world* commenced in February, 2006. The Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) is working in partnership with OER to develop the tasks and assist with the analysis. After Easter, schools will be invited to assist with the calibration in term 2. This will be an opportunity for teachers to familiarise themselves with assessing this outcome. Term 1 2006.

## Corporate Report

Contact: Andrew Cuthbertson

Thank you to all schools for completing the 2004 Corporate Report data Survey. The 2004 Summary Report is now available on the OER intranet site.

The data sets for the collection of 2005 Corporate Report data were sent to Principals in late 2005. These data will be requested during Term 1 2006.

## National Assessment Program 2006—PISA, TIMSS, literacy and numeracy national trial, Year 6 Science

Contact: Andrew Smith

The National Assessment Program in 2006 has been agreed to by the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA).

International assessments will include PISA sample testing for 15 year olds and TIMSS sample testing for Year 4 and Year 8 students.

There will be a national trial for literacy and numeracy assessments for Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

Schools that are required to participate in these samples and trials were advised in December, 2005.

Information about these programs will continue to be distributed to participating schools as it becomes available.

In 2006 a sample of students will also be selected to participate in the national assessment of Year 6 science, which is designed to measure the performance of Australian students against the national goals for schooling. The testing will take place in October.

## Monitoring

Contact: Andrew Smith

Testing dates for 2006 are as follows:

Years 3, 5 and 7: 7 – 11 August

Year 9: 24 – 28 July

New templates for analysing monitoring data have been placed on OER's intranet site. Workshops to explain how to use these templates will be held early in term one. Dates and venues will be advised asap.

## School Improvement Review (SIR)

Contact: Andrew Mahoney

Schools due to conduct review in 2006 were notified in November last year. Information about Annual Report completion and interim arrangements for SIR in 2006 can be found at:

<http://www.education.tas.gov.au/oer/SIR/default.htm>

The following are relevant term 1 dates:

- Annual Report - completed by March 31 (All Schools)
- Organisational Health Survey - conducted 26 April – 12 May (2006 review schools & volunteers)
- Parent Opinion Survey – conducted 3 – 29 April (2006 review schools)

## Contacting OER

Phone 6233 7066

Full list available at: ☺ Internet: [www.education.tas.gov.au/oer/](http://www.education.tas.gov.au/oer/)

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	Andrew Oakley (9)	6233 2012
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This update is also available online at [www.education.tas.gov.au/oer/newsletters](http://www.education.tas.gov.au/oer/newsletters)