



*Improving Learning*

# Corporate profile



# MISSION

*ACER's mission is to create and promote research-based knowledge, products and services that can be used to improve learning across the life span.*

ACER is one of the world's leading educational research centres. Our goal is to support learners, learning professionals, learning institutions and the development of a learning society through our work.

ACER has built a strong reputation as a provider of reliable support and expertise to education policymakers and professional practitioners since it was established in 1930.

As an independent non-government organisation, ACER generates its entire income through contracted research and development projects, and through developing and distributing products and services, with operating surplus directed back into research and development.



ACER has experienced significant growth in recent years and now has more than 380 staff located in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide, London, Dubai, New Delhi and Jakarta.

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# RESEARCH

*ACER is an international leader in the provision of quality educational research. As an independent research body, ACER brings a high level of expertise and objectivity to its work.*

Blending solid experience and creative talent with established methodologies, ACER is a full-service research consultancy specialising in the collection, analysis, interpretation and use of reliable data, and the evaluation of policies and practices to shape strategic decision making to improve learning across the life span.

One of ACER's great strengths is its people. ACER has more than 150 dedicated research staff with many years of experience and expertise in a range of disciplines and research methods, supported by staff with experience in research project management, publishing and administration.

ACER researchers work on a range of projects focusing on early childhood through to primary and secondary school, vocational and workplace education, and higher education, as well as the transitions between and beyond them. ACER examines key issues about improving teaching and learning for both educators and learners.

A significant component of ACER's work involves monitoring student achievement at the system and national levels to provide more usable school-level reports, better feedback to teachers and parents, and improved information about learning for educational decision makers. ACER has been instrumental in

the implementation, management and reporting of large-scale surveys such as the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS), the IEA International Civic and Citizenship Study (ICCS) and the IEA International Computer and Information Literacy Study (ICILS).

This work draws on ACER's expertise in sampling, survey management, and the collection and marking of secure assessments. ACER provides high-quality psychometric and data analysis, manages externally commissioned data analysis projects, and undertakes research on psychometric and other quantitative research issues. ACER researchers develop test constructs, assessment methods and resources, and methods for item authoring, online test delivery and reporting.

Staff expertise in these areas is also used in the design, implementation and analysis of smaller customised surveys of a wide range of academic and non-academic educational outcomes. In addition, ACER provides expert educational consultancy and capacity building to ministries of education and institutions around the world, including through development organisations such as the World Bank, UNICEF and UNESCO.

## RESEARCH PRIORITIES

As an international leader in educational research, ACER is committed to improving learning through its four strategic research centres.

### Centre for Global Education Monitoring

The Centre for Global Education Monitoring tracks progress in the provision and quality of schooling through the systematic and strategic collection of data on educational outcomes, and factors that influence these. Such monitoring aims to support improved policies, programs and practices in education and ultimately improved educational progress for all learners.

### Centre for Assessment Reform and Innovation

The Centre for Assessment Reform and Innovation is leading initiatives in developing new thinking, new metrics, new technologies and new assessment resources. Assessment reform aims to support educators and learners in developing better understandings of what learners know, understand and can do in order to provide better starting points for teaching and educational decision-making, as well as better information for evaluating past learning progress.

### Centre for Education Policy and Practice

The Centre for Education Policy and Practice promotes the interconnection between research, policy and practice to support effective teaching, institutional leadership and system leadership. ACER's research investigates what works to meet learners' needs and improve learning outcomes, and examines how research can be informed by a thorough understanding of the perspectives of policymakers and practitioners.

### Centre for Science of Learning @ ACER

The Centre for Science of Learning @ ACER conducts transdisciplinary research in neuroscience, cognitive psychology, social and behavioural sciences and education to better understand fundamental learning processes and the conditions that lead to successful learning. Such research develops and promotes better understanding of the important roles of emotions, learning environments and effective pedagogical practices in education, with direct implications for teaching and learning.



# PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

*ACER draws on its expertise as a leader in educational research, assessment, and data collection and analysis to develop professional capabilities to support improved learning.*

Professional learning occurs on a daily basis, formally and informally throughout a person's life. Drawing on its research expertise, assessment capability and extensive publications and resources, ACER provides evidence-based professional learning services and consultancy support for educators and system leaders, policymakers, data professionals, psychologists, human resource professionals and others who want to provide high-quality learning experiences and improve outcomes for learners of any age and at any level.

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## CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

ACER conducts conferences, seminars and workshops which are evidence based and practice oriented. The focus is on improving educational outcomes through leading practices in assessment, data literacy, organisational improvement, literacy, numeracy, pedagogical strategies and educational leadership.

## ADVANCED PROFESSIONAL LEARNING PROGRAMS

As a registered higher education provider, ACER's advanced professional learning programs incorporate research evidence, the use of tools and frameworks, and action research in participants' own settings, and can lead to university credit. ACER's accredited Graduate Certificate of Education (Assessment of Student Learning) and other extended programs in reading and mathematics address evidence-based approaches to teaching and learning through online and blended modes of instruction.

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## TAILORED TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

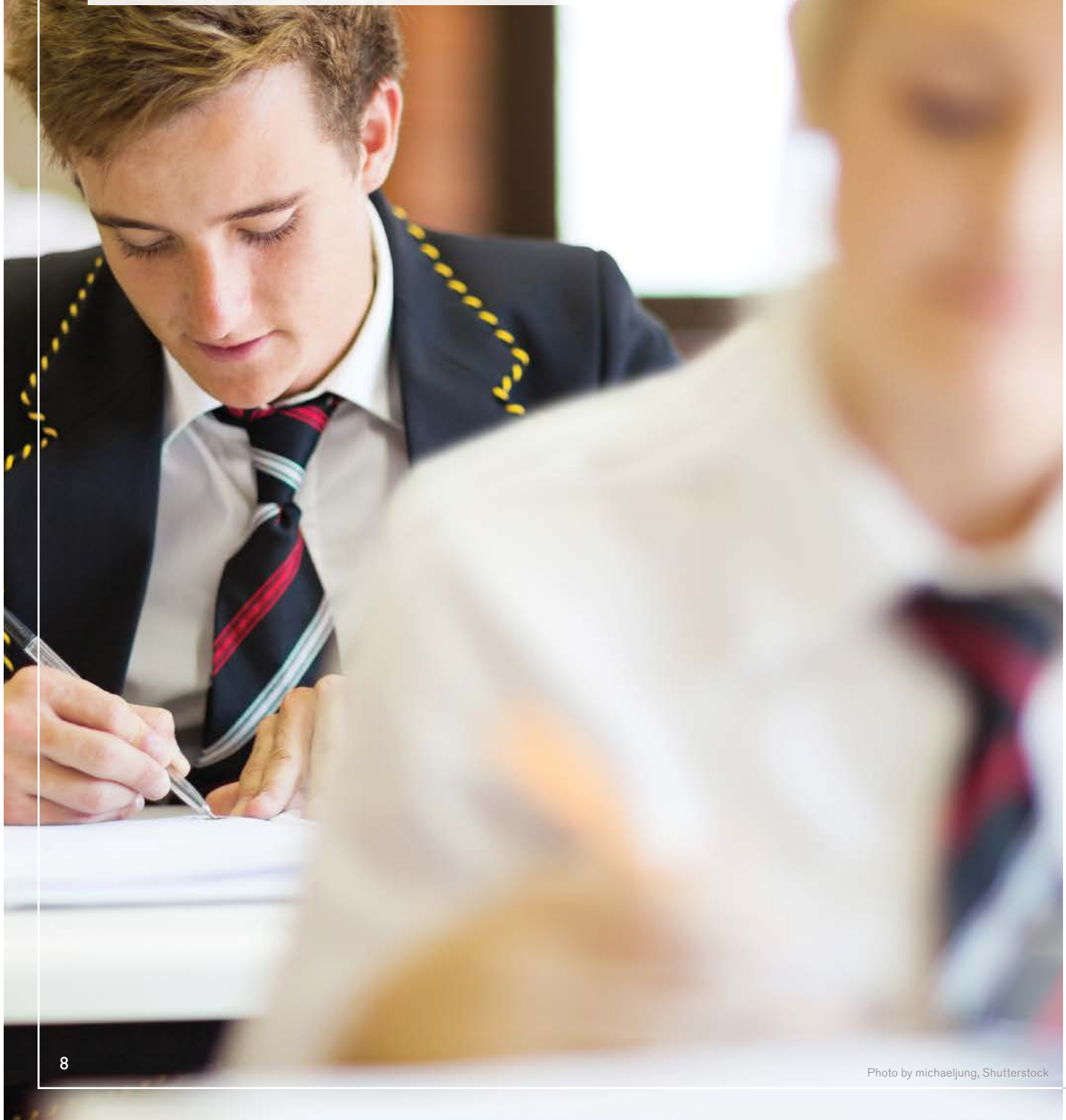
ACER is able to draw on its expertise as a leader in educational research, literacy and numeracy teaching and learning, assessment, data collection and analysis, and psychometrics to develop and provide customised professional learning anywhere in the world.

From twilight seminars in Sydney and multi-day workshops in Delhi, to capacity building in Saudi Arabia and hosting research delegations from China, ACER has experience in tailoring programs that meet individual and institutional needs and contexts.

ACER's leadership development work for current and aspiring leaders includes career development programs, leadership and management courses, information services and the Principal for a Day program. ACER is a preferred supplier to provide professional learning on school leadership in India.

# ASSESSMENT

*ACER is a recognised international leader in the development and provision of high-quality assessment and reporting tools and of services for educational institutions, health professionals, employers and governments.*





ACER provides fee-for-service assessment programs internationally, for schools, universities, vocational education and training providers, employers and governments. These services include secure admission and selection testing; programs for monitoring student achievement; quality certification and benchmarking; test scoring, reporting and data interpretation; and online and computer-based assessment and reporting.

ACER has specialised test development teams to deliver targeted assessment solutions to meet client needs. With extensive project management capacity, ACER provides full service implementation, including test development, candidate registration, analysis and reporting, test centre management, test supervision and security management. ACER has a dedicated data processing facility and provides high quality reporting and analysis services, with the option of national and international benchmarking.

In addition, ACER publishes and distributes a wide range of assessments for use by educators, health professionals, psychologists and human resource professionals.

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## MONITORING AND BENCHMARKING

ACER's assessment services for schools include programs for monitoring achievement in literacy, numeracy, science, languages and general ability; and programs for measuring social-emotional wellbeing.

In the higher education sector, ACER works with providers and policymakers to develop capacity in effective assessment practices, to benchmark and monitor learning outcomes, and to develop programs for measuring student aptitudes for a range of purposes.

ACER's vocational assessment services include the development of tools for monitoring and measuring skills in language, literacy and numeracy and employability skills. ACER also provides externally validated quality and benchmarking services for vocational training organisations, as well as measures of graduate and professional aptitudes and skills, and workforce development tools for employers, government and industry.

For government and non-government organisations, ACER provides individually tailored national and regional assessment programs that are aligned with standards established by international programs such as the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) and Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC), to provide improved information about learning for educational decision makers.

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## SECURE ADMISSION AND SELECTION TESTING

ACER develops and operates specialised school admission and selection programs for select entry, gifted education and scholarship programs.

At the university level, admission and selection programs include those for medicine, health sciences, engineering, law and mature-age and alternative entry.

ACER also develops and operates secure selection and recruitment testing services for employers in sectors including police and emergency services, banking and finance, mining and construction, and government services. These include screening tests for large scale recruitment programs.

# PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES

*ACER's research-based publications and resources support the work of practitioners and organisations to improve learning.*



ACER develops, publishes and distributes evidence-based publications, resources and information services for learners, practitioners, organisations and researchers in education and related fields around the world.

ACER's publications and professional resources focus on understanding and addressing the needs of individuals, promoting quality teaching and leadership, and supporting organisational improvement.

A range of online and hard-copy publications and resources including books, journals, magazines and information services are offered to professionals and organisations. ACER publications and resources are underpinned by the collection, analysis, interpretation and use of data relating to learners and organisational performance.

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## PUBLISHED RESOURCES

ACER produces a variety of newsletters, magazines and periodicals designed to share and explore the latest developments in education and related fields around the world.

ACER publishes and distributes resources designed to support practitioners in education and psychology. In education, ACER specialises in materials to support improved learning in the core areas of literacy, numeracy and science, and provides a range of support resources in special needs, teaching and learning, and student wellbeing. In psychology and organisational settings, ACER provides high-quality tools to support professionals in early childhood, primary, secondary and tertiary education, allied health and human resources.

Information about ACER's published resources is available online, by phone and at ACER Bookshops, located in Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne and Perth. Our experienced customer service officers support clients in identifying and using resources suitable to their needs. A team of expert education and psychology consultants works directly with practitioners and organisations to provide professional advice and support.

## SCHOOL AND SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT

ACER provides resources and training to support school and system leaders to set goals and design strategies for school improvement, and to monitor and demonstrate school improvement over time, through the National School Improvement Tool. This tool synthesises findings from international research into the practices of highly effective schools and school leaders, and is supported by seminars, audit processes and mentoring activities tailored to the specific context of each school.

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## LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

ACER provides a range of information resources and services to assist researchers, policymakers and educators to locate and use research information that supports improving learning.

ACER's Cunningham Library is one of Australia's most comprehensive educational research libraries. It provides educators and researchers with access to more than 50 000 books, 400 professional journals and an extensive collection of conference papers and reports.

For more than 50 years Cunningham Library has produced the Australian Education Index (AEI), which has indexed more than 200 000 items of educational research, journals, book chapters, conference reports and educational theses. The library produces databases of specialist education research, including international education, distance education and online learning, and Indigenous education. These databases are available on the ACER website along with the ACER research repository, ACEReSearch, which contains more than 2200 items of freely downloadable educational research produced by ACER.

Other information services include a network for leaders, researchers and educators interested in the use of digital technologies for learning, and a service connecting schools and not-for-profits to education-related grants, scholarships and sponsorships.



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