

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Australian students ready for digital future

**20 November 2014:** Australian Year 8 students are developing the computer and information literacy skills necessary for successful participation in the digital world, according to national and international reports released simultaneously today.

The world's first computer-based international study into computer and information literacy, the International Computer and Information Literacy Study (ICILS) was coordinated internationally by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) for the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement.

ICILS gathered data in 2013 from almost 60 000 Year 8 (or equivalent) students in more than 3300 schools in 21 countries or education systems within countries<sup>1</sup>, as well as data from almost 35 000 teachers, school information and communication technology (ICT) coordinators and school principals.

The top five performing countries in the study were Czech Republic, Australia, Poland, Norway (Year 9) and Korea.

ACER Research Director and director of ACER's international study centre for ICILS, Julian Fraillon, said the study provides a baseline for future measurement of computer and information literacy in itself, and across countries.

"This pioneering study reveals that Australian Year 8 students' skills in collecting and managing information, and producing and exchanging information are exceeded only by those of students in Czech Republic," Mr Fraillon said. "Our students are developing the computer and information literacy necessary to participate in the digital age."

"The study also shows that teachers' ICT use is greatest when they work in well-resourced schools that collaborate on and plan ICT use. Planning at the system and school level should focus on increasing teacher expertise and collaboration in ICT use.

"It is clear, however, that preparing essays and presentations or completing worksheets remain the most common uses of ICT. The much-vaunted benefits of collaborative learning and flipped classrooms appear still to be outside the regular experience of most students."

#### ICILS Australian report

*International Computer and Information Literacy Study 2013: Australian students' readiness for study, work and life in the digital age* (PDF: 260 pages, 4.9 MB)

#### ICILS at a glance

*ICILS at a glance: Highlights from the full Australian report – Australian students' readiness for study, work and life in the digital age* (PDF: 28 pages, 3.6 MB)

< [www.acer.edu.au/aus-icils](http://www.acer.edu.au/aus-icils) >

#### ICILS international report

*Preparing for Life in a Digital Age. The IEA International Computer and Information Literacy Study International Report.* (PDF: 305 pages, 10.1 MB)

< <http://icils2013.acer.edu.au> >

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<sup>1</sup> ICILS 2013 reports scores for student computer and information literacy for 14 of the 21 participating countries or education systems within countries, since seven countries or education systems within countries did not meet sampling requirements.