

# Australia's reading results within the international context

The new report, *Progress in International Reading Literacy Study: Australia's results from PIRLS 2021*, reveals how the average reading performance of year 4 students in Australia compares to other countries. The data below provide a summary of the overall performance of year 4 students in PIRLS 2021 in terms of the mean scores recorded in each country, the confidence interval\*\*, standard error (SE) of the mean, and the range of scores between the 5th and 95th percentiles.



\* Countries and educational systems conducted the assessment 1 year later than originally scheduled.

**FIGURE 2.1:** Mean scores and distribution of PIRLS 2021 Year 4 reading performance across countries

\*\* The **confidence interval** provides a range of scores within which there is 'confidence' that the population mean actually lies. The confidence interval is calculated as plus or minus 1.96 standard errors of the sample mean.

## Reading the distribution graphs

