

Assessing general capabilities



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Juliette Mendelovits is a Research Director at the Australian Council for Educational Research. She heads the Assessment and Reporting: Humanities and Social Sciences research program. She specialises in framework and test development for national and international large-scale learning assessments, with a particular focus on reading. Recent work includes a review of a range of widely-used reading assessments relevant to the Asia and Pacific regions; an evaluation of the reading tools and processes of citizen-led assessments that are conducted in India and Africa; and contribution to the development of the reading learning metric for the Learning Metrics Partnership. Her clients have included the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Educational Testing Service, Australian state and commonwealth government agencies and a number of national government ministries. She is an Associate Editor for the *Australian Journal of Education*.

Abstract

There is growing interest in general capabilities and cross-curricular learning outcomes such as literacy in information and communication technologies, creative thinking and collaborative and individual problem-solving. As the expectation for such competencies to be taught in schools has increased, so has the need for teachers and schools to validly and reliably assess student learning in those areas,

and to report on them in ways that inform future teaching and learning. In this presentation we examine the challenges of assessing and reporting on student learning and learning growth in general capabilities and cross-curricular learning areas. We present approaches used in research to address some of these challenges and reflect on how these can be applied in the classroom.