

# ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING

CELEBRATING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT



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## PREFACE

Arguably, there has never been a greater emphasis on the importance of assessment in Australian schools. Assessment is regarded formatively as an ongoing part of teaching and learning, and summatively as a demonstration of the achievement of outcomes to satisfy different accountability mandates.

*Assessment and Reporting: Celebrating Student Achievement* provides a timely analysis of assessment and reporting within two different contexts: increased accountability required by governments and a greater focus on authentic assessment that facilitates student learning. These two contexts are not necessarily complementary and provide unique challenges for teachers.

The book examines the nature of assessment and reporting and the relationship to learning; it defines key terms, enunciates principles, and describes a range of strategies that respond to the more formal approaches to testing as well as recent approaches to authentic assessment, including peer and self-assessment. It also examines the Australian government's external testing program, and the assessment and reporting implications of the national curriculum. Assessment and reporting practice is analysed within the context of six cases that have the benefit of presenting practice as problematic and situated.

This fourth edition preserves the same basic structure as the previous three, though two additional chapters analyse the federal government's external testing mandate within the context of a national curriculum.

We believe that *Assessment and Reporting: Celebrating Student Achievement* captures with fidelity the reality of assessment and reporting policy as well as practice in Australian schools, reflects the concerns of the contemporary assessment literature and articulates the complex issues relating to assessment and reporting.



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