

## **Terms of Reference – Expert Advisory Panel**

### **National Year 1 Literacy and Numeracy Check (Year 1 check)**

#### **Background**

In May 2016, the Australian Government released *Quality Schools, Quality Outcomes (QSQO)*, an evidence-based approach to schools reform to improve learning outcomes for all Australian students.

As part of this reform, a national Year 1 check of all children in the areas of reading, phonics and numeracy was announced. This reform aims to ensure that students who are behind in their schooling are identified early and can receive the extra support they need.

QSQO stated:

*Reforms such as assessing children in reading, phonics and numeracy during Year 1 and reporting annually to parents against agreed national literacy and numeracy standards for every year of schooling, will ensure students who are behind are identified early and can be targeted with interventions before the achievement gap grows.*

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of the Panel is to provide advice to the Minister for Education and Training to inform the development and implementation of a national Year 1 check.

The advice will include:

- a summary of recent national and international research of best practice in early years assessments covering reading, phonics and numeracy
- a summary of literacy (including phonics) and numeracy assessments that are currently used in Australia and internationally in the early years and on-entry to school
- recommendations on the implementation of a Year 1 check, including frequency, timing, prioritising of core skills assessed and reporting
- options for staggered implementation of a national Year 1 check, including an initial pilot study that could be scaled up to a national assessment
- recommendations on further reforms that may follow the implementation of a national early years check such as specific teacher development programs to support the teaching of early years reading, phonics or numeracy.

#### **Consultation**

The Panel will undertake consultations with key stakeholders to inform its advice.

The Panel will consult with, at a minimum:

- teacher employers
- key representative bodies of the education sector, including principal and key subject professional associations
- teachers and relevant education experts.

#### **Roles and responsibilities**

The Panel will report to the Minister for Education and Training by the end of April 2017.

The Department of Education and Training will provide secretariat support to the Panel.

#### **Constitution**

The Panel will comprise five to seven members.