

Activity 3: Australian jurisdictional data

In small groups, examine the following figures that show Australian jurisdictional data from PISA, TIMSS and NAP-SL. Data for all tables is sourced from Thomson, S, De Bortoli, L & Underwood, C 2016, *PISA 2015: A first look at Australia's results*, Australian Council of Educational Research, Melbourne.

Table 1: 2015 PISA: Average scores and proficiency levels in scientific literacy by jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Average	Scientific literacy — proficiency levels			Students at or above the national proficient standard (%)
ACT	527	14	71	14	68
WA	521	15	73	12	65
VIC	513	16	74	10	63
NSW	508	19	69	12	59
SA	508	17	72	10	60
QLD	507	18	71	10	60
NT	489	26	63	12	51
TAS	483	27	65	9	48
Australia	510	18	71	11	61
OECD average	493	21	71	8	54

■ Low performers
 ■ Middle performers
 ■ High performers

Table 2: 2015 TIMSS and NAP-SL: Performance in science achievement by jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	TIMSS Year 4 science achievement		TIMSS Year 8 science achievement		NAP-SL Year 6 science achievement	
	Mean	% of students at or above the proficient standard for Australia	Mean	% of students at or above the proficient standard for Australia	Mean	% of students at or above the proficient standard for Australia
ACT	549	85	528	76	414	60
VIC	527	78	518	71	399	54
TAS	525	76	503	66	414	59
NSW	524	75	511	68	411	57
SA	524	77	507	67	392	51
QLD	523	76	507	67	398	54
WA	516	70	518	70	408	58
NT	480	58	463	47	320	32
Australia	524	69	512	69	403	55

Table 3: 2015 PISA: Average scores and proficiency levels in mathematical literacy by jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Average	Mathematical literacy — proficiency levels			Students at or above the national proficient standard (%)
ACT	505	19	68	14	61
WA	504	18	70	12	60
VIC	499	19	70	11	58
NSW	494	23	64	13	55
SA	489	23	68	10	54
QLD	486	24	66	9	53
NT	478	28	61	11	47
TAS	469	32	60	8	44
Australia	494	22	67	11	55
OECD average	490	23	66	11	54

Low performers
 Middle performers
 High performers

Table 4: 2015 TIMSS: Performance in mathematics achievement by jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Year 4 mathematics achievement		Year 8 mathematics achievement	
	Mean	% of students at or above the proficient standard for Australia	Mean	% of students at or above the proficient standard for Australia
ACT	544	82	516	70
VIC	525	74	516	70
NSW	519	70	503	63
TAS	513	68	493	61
WA	512	67	508	65
QLD	511	69	498	62
SA	510	69	498	62
NT	467	49	452	40
Australia	517	70	505	64

The data for all three assessments (PISA, TIMSS and NAP-SL) for the Australian jurisdictions shows comparative performance. While a more thorough examination would consider trends, for the purpose of this exercise the above data presents a point in time measure.

In a small group, examine either the science data or the mathematics data in the above tables.

What characteristics of the states/jurisdictions could influence the data?

What do you **SEE?**

What does it make you **THINK?**

What do you **WONDER?**