



Media Release
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The Essington School Darwin Wins the NT's Most ICAS Medals

The Northern Territory has won 9 medals in one of the largest global academic competitions for school students – with 6 of those going to students at The Essington School Darwin.

ICAS competition is a school-based competition that students from Australia and international schools sit annually across six subject areas – English, Mathematics, Science, Spelling Bee, Writing and Digital Technologies. Owned and operated by Australian EdTech, Janison, the prestigious competition is administered in thousands of schools across the globe. Despite COVID's impact on school education, hundreds-of-thousands of tests were completed in 2020.

State by State the medal tally was: NSW-168, QLD-123, SA-94, VIC-91, WA-85, TAS-55, NT-9 and ACT-8.

"I congratulate the Territory's 9 students who received ICAS medals placing them in the top 0.3% of the 2020 world cohort. This is designed to be a very challenging competition and Australian students have excelled," said Amy Barouch, Group Executive – ICAS Assessments at Janison.

"ICAS goes beyond the classroom curriculum and focuses on deep subject knowledge and higher order skills such as critical thinking and problem solving. For academic students, the competition represents challenge and an opportunity to stretch, and for others it is about the fun and resilience of seeing how far you can go.

"Australian students performed remarkably well, demonstrating their resilience amidst a pandemic and also how well placed our students are in terms of global competencies."

Highlights of the NT's medal tally were:

- The Essington School Darwin won 6 medals making the school the highest scoring school in the Territory.
- Two Year 9 students at Essington School Darwin won double medals for English and Mathematics, and for Science and Mathematics.
- Larrakeyah Primary School, Dripstone Middle School and Millner Primary School all had one student who won one a medal.

In Australia and New Zealand, students will be honoured in an online medal celebration video available here: www.facebook.com/ICASAssessments

Janison's CEO, David Caspari said it has been 40 years since the University of NSW first introduced ICAS testing, but it was the transition to the digital environment over the last few years which super-charged the educational value of participation.



“Digital assessments are more interactive and dynamic than the paper-based exams, so increase student engagement and give teachers deeper and faster insights into individual students – allowing them to adjust teaching and learning methods for even stronger outcomes,” said Mr Caspari.

“It is a tribute to the quality and capacity of our learning platform that in 2020 we were able to extend the windows for testing based on pandemic lockdowns in particular areas, and yet there was not a single significant technology hiccup or disadvantage for even the remotest school due to internet connections. Our commitment to equity and accessibility for all has been well-served.

“Janison Education Group is a global force for good seeking to change the world through digital educational assessments such as Check-In, REACH, VALID and the OECD’s PISA for Schools test.

Our team of educators, technologists and change agents are passionate about empowering teachers and students to achieve better outcomes.

“We are an Australian success story, now thriving on the global stage by delivering more than 10-million best-in-class assessments annually in 120 countries. From the spare room of a teacher’s house in regional NSW, Janison is now a trusted edtech partner of the OECD, governments and private educators,” said Mr Caspari.

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NT Schools: ICAS Medal Winners

SCHOOL	English	Mathematics	Science	Spelling Bee	Digital Technologies	Total
DRIPSTONE MIDDLE SCHOOL					YEAR 7	1
LARRAKEYAH PRIMARY SCHOOL			YEAR 6			1
MILLNER PRIMARY SCHOOL		YEAR 2				1
THE ESSINGTON INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL DARWIN	YEAR 7 YEAR 9 YEAR 9	YEAR 9 YEAR 9	YEAR 9			6