DOES 1 = 1?  
Mapping measures of adult language, literacy and numeracy

If you’re familiar with adult language, literacy and numeracy concepts then we need your help!

Please complete a short survey at <http://literacymap.com/s3/> and you’ll also be eligible to win one of six Apple iPads (3rd generation).

What’s it all about?

- Language, literacy and numeracy are critical for greater workforce participation, productivity and social inclusion. Being able to measure people’s skill levels, and any changes in this, is important for getting a sense of how well language, literacy and numeracy programs are working for learners.
- The federal government uses the Adult Literacy and Life Skills survey to measure an outcome in the National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Development. But this data is only obtained every 10 years.
- The Australian Core Skills Framework (ACSF) is also being used to provide information on adults’ literacy and numeracy skills in a range of contexts.
- Both the ALLS and ACSF have five performance levels and it’s sometimes assumed that these levels are equivalent. But are they?
- We want to know how the performance levels on the ALLS literacy and numeracy scales relate to the performance levels of the ACSF. In essence, does 1 = 1? Once the relationship has been determined empirically, the ACSF performance levels could then be used as a proxy for ALLS performance levels.
- The findings from this study will open up a range of possibilities for monitoring the language, literacy and numeracy skills of adults against the national goals.

Please note: we are not evaluating the usefulness of either the ALLS or the ACSF.

How you can help

We’re asking teachers/tutors/lecturers familiar with adult literacy and numeracy concepts to anonymously rate a student, whose literacy and/or numeracy levels are most familiar to them, against statements and sample tasks aligned with the ACSF and ALLS frameworks.

Knowledge of either framework is not needed to participate. Knowledge of adult language, literacy and numeracy concepts is more important.

How to access the survey

The survey should only take about 10—20 minutes to do. Head to <http://literacymap.com/s3/>. The survey will be available until 14 May 2012.

Please help us by encouraging your colleagues to also participate.

What’s in it for you?

By participating, not only will you be helping us find out whether it is possible to map the ACSF to the ALLS, but you’ll also go in the draw to win one of six Apple iPads Wi-Fi 32GB (3rd generation) valued at AUD $649 (RRP) each.

Winners will be notified directly by email. The winners will also be published on the NCVER website <http://www.ncver.edu.au> on the 17th May 2012. See the Terms and conditions <http://literacymap.com/s3/terms> for more information about the draw.

Need to know more?

If you would like further information about the project, or about what’s involved in the survey, please refer to the Information to participants section in the survey. You can also email Associate Professor Shelley Gillis, Work-based Education Research Centre (WERC), Victoria University: Shelley.Gillis@vu.edu.au

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