



NSW student literacy levels at an all time high

7 May 2007

NSW Premier Morris Iemma today released new statewide test results which have found NSW student literacy levels are at a new record high.

Mr Iemma announced the 2007 English Language and Literacy Assessment (ELLA) results when he met with Year 7 English students at the Balmain Campus of Sydney Secondary College.

"These results confirm that literacy standards for NSW students in Years 7 and 8 remain amongst the highest in the world," Mr Iemma said.

"This year, Years 7 and 8 boys and girls have recorded their best ever results in literacy," Mr Iemma said.

"These record results demonstrate the worth of our *State Literacy Plan 2006-2008* and the success of the traditional and rigorous NSW curriculum.

"What's particularly pleasing is the improved results of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students who also recorded best ever results in overall literacy.

"Our targeted \$65 million investment to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students is clearly paying off.

"I'd like to congratulate the students and their hard-working teachers on these outstanding results.

"More than 148,000 students sat the compulsory Year 7 ELLA tests and the voluntary Year 8 re-test.

"The OECD recently found NSW students have the second highest levels of literacy in the world, behind only Finland and ahead of the major developed nations.

"NSW is lifting the bar for English language and literacy achievement, while closing the gap between the highest performers and those who have needed more support," Mr Iemma said.

Other highlights of the 2007 ELLA results include:

- Average scores for Writing Year 7 (89.0) and Year 8 (90.8) are the highest ever achieved;
- Average scores for Reading Year 7 (89.0) and Year 8 (91.4) are the highest ever achieved;
- Average scores for Language Year 7 (89.1) and Year 8 (90.9) are the highest ever achieved;
- The percentages of Year 7 students in the High achievement level for Overall Literacy (35.0) and Language (38.6) are the highest ever achieved;

- The percentages of Year 8 students in the High achievement level for Overall Literacy (45.6), Writing (44.7) and Language (46.5) are the highest ever achieved;
- The percentages of students in the Low achievement level for Reading in both Year 7 (3.6) and Year 8 (2.0) are the lowest ever recorded; and
- The percentages of students in the Low achievement level for Overall Literacy in both Year 7 (3.7) and Year 8 (2.3) are the lowest ever recorded.

Minister for Education and Training, John Della Bosca, said parents would receive the ELLA test results in the coming weeks.

"These results will give parents important information on their child's literacy levels," he said.

"Teachers can use these results to identify students having difficulties and work in consultation with parents to develop a program to improve their child's literacy levels.

"ELLA forms part of a \$616 million four-year investment to lift literacy and numeracy standards at NSW public schools.

"We're set to achieve the State Literacy Plan's target of a 10 per cent reduction in the number of the lowest performing students in Years 3, 5 and 7 by 2008.

"Achieving this target will mean more students than ever are equipped with the essential foundations for learning and success inside and outside the workplace.

"These results demonstrate our schools are helping to equip students for the future and assisting them to maximise their opportunities and to live fulfilling lives," Mr Della Bosca said.

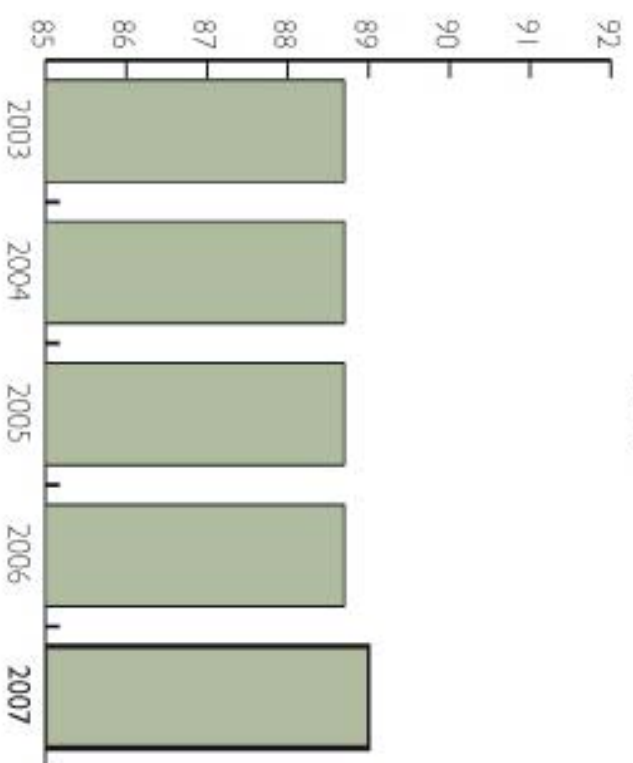
ELLA Average scores 2002 – 2007

The major population sub-groups reported are boys, girls, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students (A&TSI) and students with Language Backgrounds Other Than English (LBOTE - total number of students where the student, mother, father or main caregiver speaks a language other than English.).

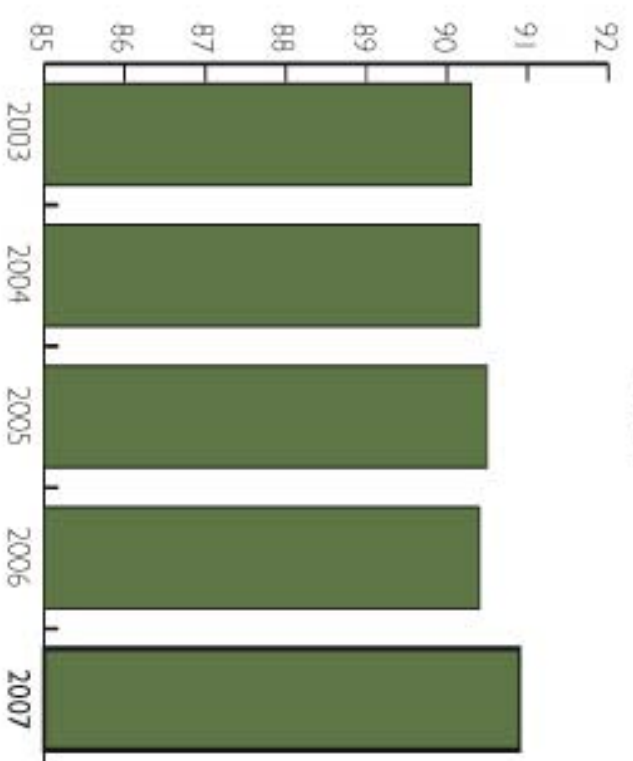
Overall Literacy Averages Year 7						Overall Literacy Averages Year 8					
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
All students	88.7	88.7	88.7	88.8	89.0		90.3	90.4	90.5	90.4	90.9
Boys	87.4	87.5	87.5	87.7	87.8		89.0	89.0	89.2	89.3	89.6
Girls	90.0	89.9	89.9	89.8	90.3		91.7	91.8	91.8	91.5	92.3
A & TSI	83.1	83.7	83.5	83.5	83.8		85.1	85.2	85.3	85.1	85.6
LBOTE	88.9	88.9	89.5	89.3	89.7		90.4	90.2	91.0	90.8	91.3

Overall ELLA Literacy Means

Year 7

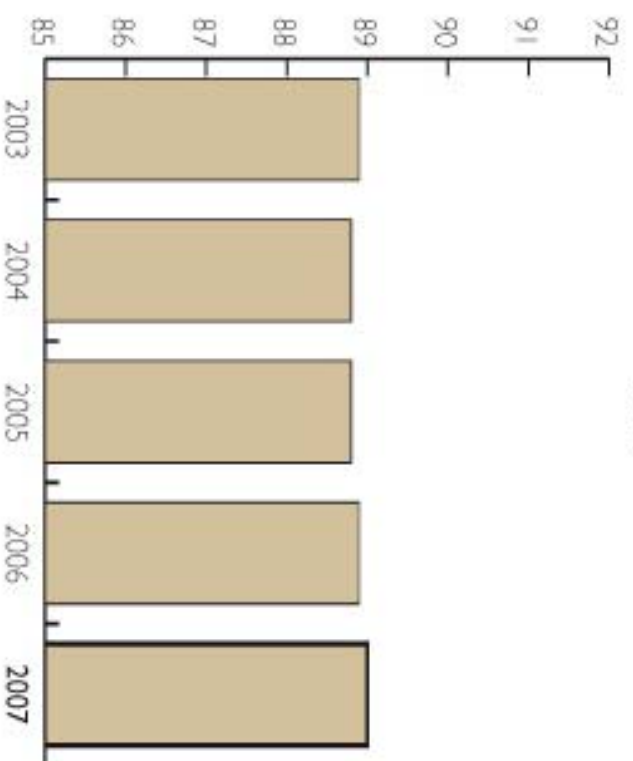


Year 8

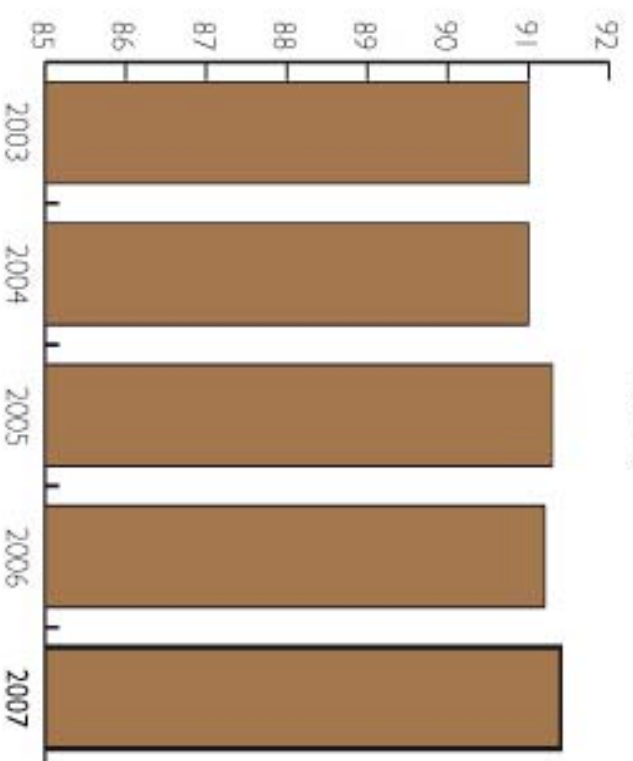


ELLA Reading Means

Year 7

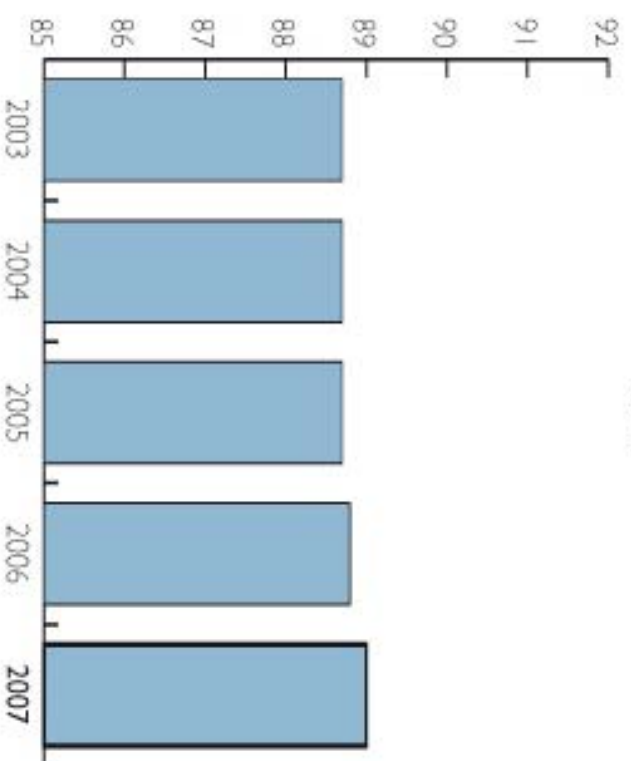


Year 8

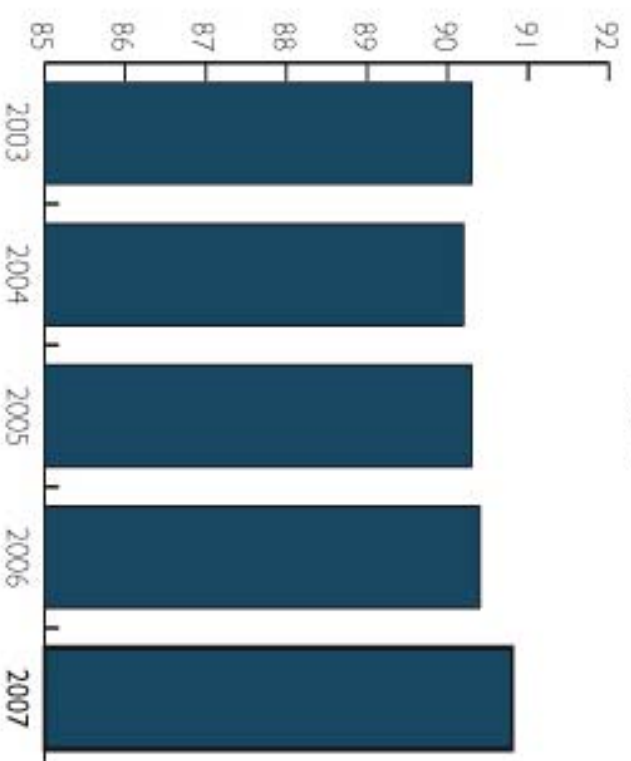


ELLA Writing Means

Year 7

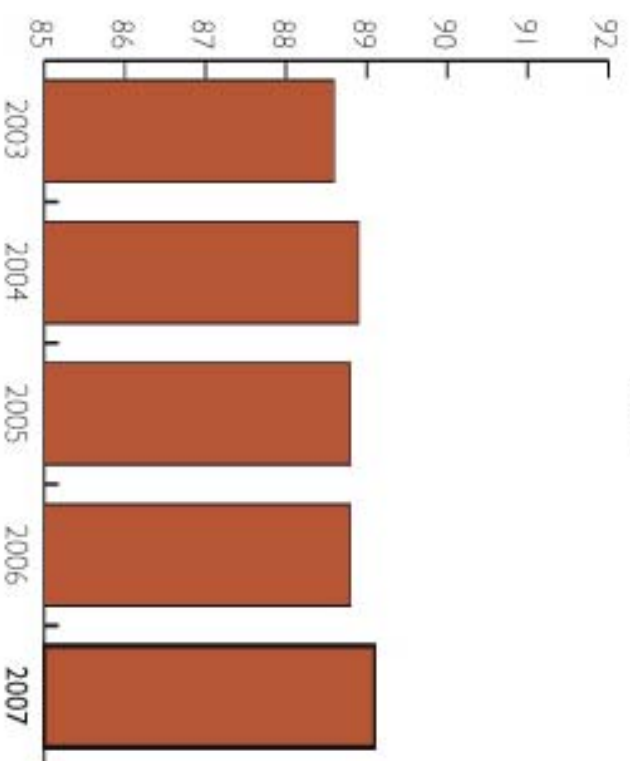


Year 8



ELLA Language Means

Year 7



Year 8

