

CONVERSATION



Geoff Masters AO

*Australian Council for
Educational Research*

*Professor Geoff
Masters is Chief
Executive Officer
and a member of
the Board of ACER –
roles he has held
since 1998. He has
a PhD in educational*

measurement from the University of Chicago and has published widely in the fields of educational assessment and research.

Professor Masters has served on a range of bodies, including terms as President of the Australian College of Educators; founding President of the Asia-Pacific Educational Research Association; member of the Business Council of Australia's Education, Skills and Innovation Taskforce; member of the Australian National Commission for UNESCO; and member of the International Baccalaureate Research Committee. He is currently a member of the Advisory Board for the Science of Learning Research Centre, the ABC Digital Education Advisory Group and the national Board of Life Education Australia.

He has conducted a number of reviews for governments, including a review of examination procedures in the NSW Higher School Certificate (2002); an investigation of options for the introduction of an Australian Certificate of Education (2005); a national review of options for reporting and comparing school performances (2008); and reviews of strategies for improving literacy and numeracy learning in government schools in Queensland (2009) and the Northern Territory (2011). He is currently undertaking a review of senior secondary assessment and tertiary entrance procedures in Queensland.

Professor Masters is an adjunct professor in the Queensland Brain Institute. His contributions to education have been recognised through the award of the Australian College of Educators' Medal in 2009 and his appointment as an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2014.

The Hon. Julia Gillard

*Former Prime
Minister
of Australia,
2010–2013*

*Julia Gillard was sworn
in as the 27th Prime
Minister of Australia
on 24 June 2010 and
served in that office
until June 2013.*



As Prime Minister and in her previous role as Deputy Prime Minister, Ms Gillard was central to the successful management of Australia's economy, the 12th biggest economy in the world, during the global financial crisis and as Australia positioned itself to seize the benefits of Asia's rise. Ms Gillard developed Australia's guiding policy paper, Australia in the Asian century. Ms Gillard delivered nation-changing policies, including reforming Australian education at every level from early childhood to university education; creating an emissions trading scheme; improving the provision and sustainability of health care, aged care and dental care; commencing the nation's first national scheme to care for people with disabilities; restructuring the telecommunications sector; and building a national broadband network. In foreign policy, Ms Gillard strengthened Australia's alliance with the United States, secured stronger architecture for the relationship with China, upgraded Australia's ties with India, and deepened ties with Japan, Indonesia and South Korea. Ms Gillard has represented Australia at the G20, winning Australia's right to host the 2014 meeting; the East Asia Summit; APEC; and NATO-ISAF, and chaired CHOGM. Under Ms Gillard's leadership, Australia was elected to the United Nations Security Council.

Ms Gillard is the first woman to serve as Australia's Prime Minister or Deputy Prime Minister. In October 2012, Ms Gillard received worldwide attention for her speech in Parliament on the treatment of women in professional and public life.