Description of Bands

You will receive your result in the form of a band descriptor. These are general descriptions and do not refer to your specific performance.

Listening

Band A+: You have been assessed as able to comprehend easily and accurately all personal and professional contexts pertinent to your professional needs. This means that you can readily and with ease understand all educated speech in any context relevant to your professional life and you are rarely troubled by speech in other contexts. You can comprehend the generally recognised varieties of Australian English and other similar varieties and you are only occasionally baffled by colloquialisms. You can comprehend fast rates of utterance with no greater difficulty than a native speaker.

Band A: You have been assessed as being able to comprehend easily and accurately all personal and professional contexts relevant to your experience. This means that you can readily understand all educated speech in any context relevant to your professional life and you are rarely troubled by speech in other contexts. You can comprehend the generally recognised varieties of Australian English and other similar varieties and you are only occasionally baffled by colloquialisms. You can comprehend fast rates of utterance.

Band B+: You have been assessed as able to comprehend easily and mostly accurately all personal and most professional discourse relevant to your experience. This means that you can readily understand discourse between two or more native speakers but may experience some difficulties when encountering colloquialism and idiomatic forms or more abstract uses of language. You may have some difficulty comprehending speech at native speaker speed.

Band B: You have an increasing ability to listen and comprehend readily in increasing detail. You have few problems with unfamiliar vocabulary and you are increasingly able to fully comprehend discourse between two or more native speakers. You will need to work further on listening and taking accurate notes from more formal information sessions (one or two words), as cues for remembering facts at a later date. You will also need to work on listening to a broader range of material for your professional needs, both children and adults, formal and colloquial levels.

Band C: You are able to comprehend sufficiently to be able to participate effectively in most formal and informal conversations in areas relevant to your interests and profession. You can understand most conversations between two or more native speakers though not always in great detail. You usually only ask for clarification where speech is heavily loaded with colloquialisms. You will need to work further on listening in a broad range of contexts with two or more speakers, particularly native speakers - adults and children. You will also need to work on listening and taking accurate notes from more formal information sessions.

Band D: will include anything below Band C.
Reading

Band A+: You have been assessed as able to read all styles and forms of the language pertinent to your professional needs. This means that you can read difficult prose readily in any area directed to the general reader and all material relevant to your teaching subject including all professional documents and correspondence. Your reading speed approximates that of a comparably educated native speaker. Understanding cursive writing poses no greater difficulty for you than for a native speaker.

Band A: You have been assessed as able to read all styles and forms of the language pertinent to your professional needs. This means that you can read moderately difficult prose readily in any area directed to the general reader, and all material relevant to your teaching subject including all professional documents and correspondence to approximately the same level as a native speaker. Your reading speed will approximate that of a comparably educated native speaker. Understanding cursive writing poses no greater difficulty for you than for a native speaker.

Band B+: You have been assessed as able to read all standard texts and most styles and forms of the language pertinent to your professional needs but may experience some difficulty with idiomatic or more abstract uses of the language. This means that you can read moderately difficult prose readily in any area directed to the general reader and most material relevant to your teaching subject including professional documents and correspondence. Your reading speed will be slightly slower than that of a comparably educated native speaker. Understanding cursive writing may pose some minor challenges.

Band B: You are able to read all standard texts relevant to your teaching subject and for everyday social needs. You also have an increasing ability to read with comprehension all texts pertinent to your teaching subject and related educational materials with less use of a dictionary. You will need to work on the speed of your reading and on understanding the tone and style of different types of texts. You need to read more broadly within the education field both formal and informal texts.

Band C: You are able to read standard texts pertinent to your teaching subject and associated everyday materials. You can grasp the essentials of articles of the above types without using a dictionary; however, for accurate understanding you require moderately frequent use of a dictionary. You will need to work on increasing the speed of your reading for accuracy and specific detail. You will also need to start reading different styles of texts ranging from formal policy documents and reports to more informal materials relevant to your teaching and subject area.

Band D: will include anything below Band C.
Writing

**Band A+:** You have been assessed as being able to produce written language which is indistinguishable from the writing of native or near native speakers of English or fully bilingual peers. You can communicate at a standard which is fully effective in workplace contexts and would stand as a positive model for student literacy.

**Band A:** You have been assessed as being able to write fluently and accurately on all levels normally pertinent to your personal or professional needs. This means that you very rarely make errors in your grammar or vocabulary and you are able to consider and select from amongst a wide choice of vocabulary and structures to make your meaning clear. You have considerable sensitivity to the level of language required in any context and can modify your language appropriately.

**Band B+:** You have been assessed as being able to write fluently and accurately on some but not all levels normally pertinent to your personal or professional needs. This means that errors in your grammar or vocabulary are not numerous but they are systematic. You are able to consider and select from amongst a wide choice of vocabulary and structures but sometimes your vocabulary choices are non native like and can at times be inappropriate. You are mostly sensitive to the level of language required in any context but can not always control the register in order to modify your language appropriately.

**Band B:** You have an increasing ability to write flexibly, varying your style over broad parameters eg. between personal and professional contexts although you may still lack occasional subtlety in differentiating between contexts. You are able to write with sufficient accuracy to meet all social and basic professional needs fairly easily. You need to work further on writing appropriately and accurately for a range of different audiences within the educational context.

**Band C:** You are able to write with sufficient accuracy in structures and vocabulary to meet all social demands and basic professional needs. You can write with reasonable ease on matters relevant to the educational context using reasonably complex sentences accurately, varying style between personal and educational contexts at a minimum level. You will need to work further on writing appropriately and accurately for a range of situations; both personal and professional. You will also have to work at writing for different audiences, children and adults, within the educational context.

**Band D:** will include anything below Band C.
Speaking

**Band A+:** You have been assessed as being able to produce spoken language which is indistinguishable from the speaking of native or near native speakers of English or fully bilingual peers. You can communicate at a standard which is fully effective in workplace contexts and would stand as a positive model for student spoken interaction.

**Band A:** You are able to use the language fluently and accurately on all levels normally pertinent to your personal, social, academic or professional needs. This means that you can participate within your range of experience with a high degree of fluency and precision of vocabulary. While you have mastered commonly occurring colloquial and idiomatic forms, you may occasionally misuse other items. You would rarely be taken for a native speaker but you can respond appropriately even in unfamiliar situations. Your pronunciation does not impede comprehension by a native speaker. You have considerable sensitivity to the level of language required in any context and can modify your language appropriately.

**Band B+:** You are able to use the language effectively in some but not all situations pertinent to professional life. This means that errors may not be numerous but are systematic and repeated. You are largely accurate in the use of language but are unsuccessful in conveying the appropriate effect of a message to a listener. You are becoming increasingly sensitive to the level of language required and can mostly, but not always, modify your language appropriately.

**Band B:** You have increasing register control and flexibility as well as continuing to develop in fluency and accuracy. You are usually able to deal effectively with everyday difficult linguistic situations and convey your meaning sensitively in a range of different situations. Your pronunciation will not usually impede comprehension and you are able to self-correct when necessary. You also attempt to modify your language according to the level of the situation (informal to formal) with increasing success. However, you will have to work further in these areas.

**Band C:** You are able to speak with sufficient structural accuracy and vocabulary to participate effectively in informal and some formal conversations on practical, social and professional topics. Your fluency may be uneven and there may be a lack of control of grammatical structures and / or limited evidence of range of lexis. Communication may be impeded by misunderstanding, errors and restricted linguistic resources. You will need to work further on communicating in a range of situations, both personal and professional. You will need also to improve the intelligibility / stress / intonation of your speech prior to working in a professional environment. You will need to consider the cultural appropriacy of your choice of language.

**Band D:** will include anything below Band C.