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## New ACL IELTS test centre to service one of the largest global markets in IELTS

5/12/2007

from ACL Pty Ltd

ACL, the largest provider of high quality English language education in Australia, has announced today that it will open the only International English Language Testing System (IELTS) centre in the Sydney CBD at its new educational precinct in York Street.

ACL Group Managing Director Helen Zimmerman said IELTS is designed to assess the language ability of candidates who need to study or work where English is the language of communication.

"IELTS conforms to the highest international standards of language assessment and covers the four language skills of listening, reading, writing and speaking," Ms Zimmerman said.

"This new testing centre is a significant development for the ACL Group and will enable us to respond to the growing demand for IELTS examinations in Australia as well as offering a new service to both our internal and external clients," she said.

The testing centre - which will open in mid-February 2008 - will be operated by ACL's Australian TESOL Training Centre and will offer testing at Academic or General Training levels.

The Academic Reading and Writing tests assess whether a candidate is ready to study or train in English at an undergraduate or postgraduate level. Admission to undergraduate and postgraduate courses is based on the results of these tests.

The General Training Reading and Writing tests are not designed to test the full range of formal language skills required for academic purposes, but emphasise basic survival skills in a broad social and educational context.

Ms Zimmerman said the new test centre would broaden existing markets and create new markets for ACL, as well as provide a one-stop-shop for ACL language students.

Anne-Marie Cooper, Head, Global Examination Service, IDP Education Pty Ltd, said that operating an IELTS test centre was not only a prestigious opportunity for ACL but also that it would help to service the growing demand for IELTS locally.

"The demand for IELTS in Australia has increased 60 per cent in 2007 to 100,000 people sitting the test, compared to 2006 numbers," Ms Cooper said.

"This new centre will allow IELTS Australia to be proactive in meeting growing demand. Australia is one of the largest global markets in IELTS across the globe."

"For ACL this is certainly a vote of confidence in its ability to meet the stringent requirements of a test environment for a system recognised as a worldwide standard," Ms Cooper said.

"ACL brings a well-known level of professionalism, integrity and customer service to the IELTS process," she said.

IELTS tests are administered at centres throughout the world. Currently there are more than 300 centres operating in some 100 countries.

Test centres supervise the local administration of the test and ensure the provision of qualified and trained examiners.

IELTS is recognised by universities and employers in many countries and is also recognised by professional bodies, immigration authorities and other government agencies.

Ms Zimmerman said she expected the test centre would provide testing opportunities initially on two Saturdays per month catering for up to 200 students for each test.

**NOTE:** Bookings for tests at the ACL test centre can be made from 17 December by phoning 8246 6845 or via the ACL website at [www.acl.edu.au/ielts](http://www.acl.edu.au/ielts)