

MEDIA RELEASE

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AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM: ENDORSED AND IMPROVED

Today the Education Council has endorsed Australian Curriculum in eight learning areas.

The Australian Curriculum that was endorsed includes:

- The revised Foundation – Year 10 Australian Curriculum: English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities and Social Sciences, The Arts, Technologies and Health and Physical Education.
- Foundation – Year 10 Australian Curriculum: Languages for Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Modern Greek, Spanish and Vietnamese.
- Australian Curriculum: Work Studies, Years 9–10 (an optional subject designed to ready young people for work).

Revisions have been made to previously available Australian Curriculum to make the curriculum easier to manage, particularly for primary schools, simplify the curriculum's presentation and strengthen the focus on literacy.

For over two decades, Australia has been moving towards a national approach to schooling, including a national curriculum. After all this time, and through collaborative efforts led by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) and involving all Australian states and territories, the first truly Australian Curriculum is now available for use in Australian schools.

It is a national curriculum built on the best state and territory curricula and shaped by comparison with the best from overseas.

But curriculum is only one part of the story of school learning. The Australian Curriculum does not specify how content must be taught. Schools and teachers have flexibility to make decisions about how they teach the curriculum in accordance with the needs of their students, the requirements of their school and local curriculum authorities.

Robert Randall, ACARA CEO, said today, “I welcome today’s endorsement of the Australian Curriculum by the Education Council. It is too early yet to see the true benefits of the national curriculum, but I am confident that young people and the nation are better off as a result of the work done by tens of thousands of people during the last few years. The Australian Curriculum, along with ACARA’s national assessment and reporting programs, are foundations for improving learning outcomes for all young Australians, regardless of where they live or the socio-educational advantages or disadvantage they may have”.

From late October, the newly endorsed Foundation – Year 10 Australian Curriculum: English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities and Social Sciences, The Arts, Technologies, Health and Physical Education; the eleven Foundation to Year 10 Australian Curriculum for Languages and the Australian Curriculum: Work Studies, Years 9–10 will be made available on the Australian Curriculum website as version 8.0. Further information will be provided at that time.

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