

# Improving the Australian Curriculum

September 2015

The Education Council, comprising all Australian education ministers, has endorsed all Australian Curriculum and improvements to the Australian Curriculum that are designed to improve its manageability, simplify its presentation and strengthen the focus on literacy.

## What has ACARA done about...

### Uncrowding and rebalancing the curriculum?

- We have listened to feedback about the Australian Curriculum. We have been working to make the Australian Curriculum more manageable for teachers, particularly those in primary schools, while strengthening the focus on literacy.
- We have reduced some duplication of information and made the content descriptions and achievement standards clearer. These have been done to make it easier for teachers to focus on what needs to be taught. (Content descriptions are the information that will be taught to students; achievement standards are what teachers use to find out what students can do and understand as a result of being taught the content.)
- Based on available research and after listening to experts in this field, we have strengthened the presence of phonics and phonemic awareness in the Australian Curriculum: English.
- We have strengthened references to Western influences in Australia's development. For example, we have provided more information about the system of government; the role of our founders and key features of constitutional development; the beliefs and values of Christianity; and the role of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the executive arm of government.

### Humanities and Social Sciences

Year 3 students learn about Anzac Day, Year 4 learn about the First Fleet, Year 5 learn about Australia's early settlers.

### English

Year 1 students learn to blend consonants and recognise that vowels can work together to make sounds (for example, /a/ and /i/ together make the sound in 'bait').



### Improving accessibility?

ACARA wants the Australian Curriculum to improve learning outcomes for all students. We are preparing information that will assist teachers to use the Australian Curriculum so it is inclusive for all students, including students with disability.



### Parental engagement?

We know that parents and carers are interested in what their children are being taught at school. We are preparing information just for parents about the Australian Curriculum and how it is applicable to students and the classroom.

## Improving the Australian Curriculum: a timeline

