

# Australian Primary Principals Association NAC



Robert Randall CEO  
Tuesday 28 July 2015

# Overview of presentation

- ACARA Update
- Review of the Australian Curriculum
- Implementing Australian Curriculum
- ACARA workplans

# ACARA Update

# New Board members

- Prof. Steven Schwartz – Chair
- Ms Jayne Johnston – South Australia
- Mr Paul Hewitt – New South Wales
- Dr David Howes – Victoria
- Dr Tim McDonald – NCEC

# Reviews

- Australian Curriculum
- My School
- ACARA

# Australian Curriculum Review

- Work to improve the Australian Curriculum addressing themes identified by the Education Council:
  - uncrowding the curriculum
  - rebalancing the curriculum
  - improving accessibility for students with disability
  - parental engagement.

# Resolving the overcrowded curriculum

- Main focus on primary curriculum
- Volume of content in learning areas has been reduced by deleting, clarifying and simplifying content descriptions, where appropriate, and moving reference to examples for inclusion by teachers to the content elaborations
- Redesigning humanities and social sciences (incorporating history, geography, civics and citizenship and economics and business) into one learning area for primary years
- Provision of single learning area achievement standards in addition to the existing subject-specific achievement standards in the learning areas of humanities and social sciences, the arts and technologies
- Ensuring the general capabilities and cross curriculum priorities are appropriately tagged to learning areas



# Rebalancing the Australian Curriculum

- Strengthening phonics and phonemic awareness in the Australian Curriculum: English
- Streamlining of the identification of general capabilities and cross curriculum priorities
- Strengthening of the representation of Western influences on Australia's system of government

# Supporting info on the AC website

- Links to the *Melbourne Declaration* and the *Shape of the Australian Curriculum*
- Reductions in the volume of supporting information for each learning area
- Reducing repetition and consolidating the *F-10 overview*
- Consistent navigational headings ... to find information more easily

# Accessibility and parental engagement

## Improving accessibility

- Nine options identified; three with broad support

## Parental access

- Consulting with agencies who have completed similar work and engaging with other key stakeholders
- Developing proposals to improve parent engagement followed.

# Implementing Australian Curriculum

# State and territory implementation of the Australian Curriculum

- Focus is on the Australian Curriculum
- Responsible authorities make decisions about the extent and timing of take-up of the AC according to their policies and a myriad of other factors.
- The extent of AC implementation, processes and timeframes vary across and within jurisdictions.

# Monitoring

- An important part of the continuous improvement cycle of the Australian Curriculum (AC)
- An annual process that systematically collects and analyses research and feed back about the effectiveness of the AC and reports findings to the ACARA Board
- Feedback on the AC has been invited for the 2015 report

# ACARA Workplan

# ACARA 2015–16 work plan

- ACARA's 2015–16 work plan
  - approved by the ACARA Board on 29 April
  - endorsed by the Education Council on 29 May.
- Overall priority to the move to NAPLAN online and implementation of changes to the Australian Curriculum.
- No additional funding has been provided to ACARA.



# 2016–17 to 2019–20 work plan

- Ongoing programs and priority change programs
  - NAP online priority
- Goal is to have in principle agreement from Education Council in September.

# Keeping in touch

- ACARA Update
- Stakeholder briefings
- Social media



@ACARAeduau and @ACARA\_CEO



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Thank you

