

## General capabilities

### Why does the Australian Curriculum include general capabilities?

Twenty-first century learning does not fit neatly into a curriculum solely organised by learning areas or subjects. That is why the Australian Curriculum has identified a comprehensive set of skills, behaviours and dispositions or general capabilities that will assist students in living and working successfully in an increasingly complex, information-rich, globalised world.

### What are the general capabilities?

The Australian Curriculum is underpinned by seven general capabilities. These are:

- literacy
- numeracy
- information and communication technology competence
- critical and creative thinking
- ethical behaviour
- personal and social competence
- intercultural understanding.

### How are the general capabilities evident in the Australian Curriculum?

Good teaching in each of the learning areas will always contribute to a student's development of general capabilities. The Australian Curriculum reinforces this expectation by incorporating these seven general capabilities into learning area content descriptions in ways appropriate to each learning area.

### Where can I find more information about the general capabilities?

Overviews that describe the nature, scope and significance of each general capability are on the general capabilities section of the Australian Curriculum website. In addition, more detailed explanations and learning progressions are being prepared for publication in Term 1, 2011. These will support teachers and schools who wish to use them in the development of their teaching and learning programs. These materials will include:

- an explanation of the general capability and the evidence base and references for the capability
- a learning progression, showing development across bands of year levels. For Literacy and Numeracy, this work includes descriptions for the end of Years 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 and for the other five capabilities for the end of Years 2, 6 and 10.

For more information go to the general capabilities section on the Australian Curriculum website at [www.australiancurriculum.edu.au](http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au)