

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

14 May 2010

ACARA Releases Draft Senior Secondary Australian Curriculum for National Consultation

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) today released the draft Senior Secondary Australian Curriculum for English, mathematics, science and history.

Professor Barry McGaw AO, the Chair of ACARA's Board, said the 14 draft courses across four learning areas are designed to provide young Australians with options that will help prepare them for any post school pathway they choose.

"We understand that some young Australians want to study courses that will prepare them for university, and others will want to study courses that prepare them for vocational studies or the workplace. We are seeking feedback from the community to help us ensure the draft courses we have designed will offer all students appealing options," Professor Barry McGaw said.

"We welcome feedback from everyone in the community through the ACARA curriculum consultation website; www.australiancurriculum.edu.au.

"Teachers, curriculum experts, academics and professional association representatives have been directly involved in the development of the draft senior curriculum," said Professor McGaw.

"As well as consulting the education profession, curriculum writers also closely examined existing state, territory and overseas curriculum documents to develop the draft," he said

The current suite of courses was selected to reflect the approach that currently exists across states and territories.

More senior secondary courses are being developed, including geography, languages and the arts. The Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs (MCEECDYA) will set out the other courses to be developed in the future.

"Since the launch of the K-10 draft English, mathematics, science and history curriculum in March, ACARA has been hosting forums across Australia with teachers, principals, academics and the public to gather feedback that will help shape the final curriculum," he said.

Timelines for implementation of the senior secondary curriculum have not yet been determined and will be subject to decisions to be made by MCEECDYA.

The draft senior secondary curriculum content will be available for consultation between 14 May and 30 July 2010. The draft achievement standards for each of the senior secondary courses will be available for consultation and trialling in early 2011

Course
Essential English English English as an Additional Language Literature
Essential Mathematics General Mathematics Mathematical Methods Specialist Mathematics
Physics Chemistry Biology Earth and Environmental Science
Ancient History Modern History

ENDS

For interviews with ACARA Chair, Barry McGaw AO or Deputy Chair Tony Mackay contact:

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About ACARA

The Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) is an independent authority responsible for:

- A national curriculum from Kindergarten to Year 12 in specified learning areas.
- A national assessment program aligned to the national curriculum that measures students' progress.
- A national data collection and reporting program.

Visit the ACARA website here www.acara.edu.au.