



## PRIMARY MATTERS

Issue #1 April 2014

Welcome to the first edition of PRIMARY MATTERS – a new quarterly update from ACARA’s Primary Curriculum team. We hope this newsletter will explain more about ACARA’s efforts to add value to the assistance we provide primary schools across Australia. Please see this as an additional opportunity to provide feedback or raise questions in relation to primary matters.

### Primary Curriculum team

In 2013, ACARA established a team of primary educators to focus specifically on supporting the management of the Australian Curriculum for primary schools. The team’s work relates to the mandated components of the Australian Curriculum and capitalises on the flexible nature of the Australian Curriculum (AC) website ([www.australiancurriculum.edu.au](http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au)).

The team is led by former primary principal **Laraine Lucas**, Primary Curriculum Lead. Team members include **Jenny Avvenevole**, a primary classroom specialist, and **Pamela Murphy**, a primary specialist with expertise in English as an additional language or dialect (EALD).

### Australian Curriculum website

ACARA gained valuable insights from a website usability study undertaken late in 2012. Based on the results, ACARA is now working to improve site functionality and to expand the ways curriculum can be viewed on the site. The changes will better support primary school teachers when they are planning and programming using the Australian Curriculum. For example, teachers will be able to:

- compare the mandatory content descriptions and achievement standards across a number of year or band levels for different subjects
- continue to connect to Scootle and Scootle community for resources and teaching/learning networks
- access a ‘What’s new’ box to locate recently added materials.

### Learning area links

The Learning Area Links project aims to help teachers to create a unit of study or develop relevant and significant learning experiences for their students, using cross-curriculum connections. The links help teachers to work with new curriculum by identifying connections within and across learning areas teachers may wish to draw on when planning and programming. The learning area links will be published on the Australian Curriculum website in the later part of 2014.

### Illustrations of practice

The website contains ‘Illustrations of personalised learning’ for the ‘Diversity’ section of the AC website. Although published only recently, these valuable resources have been intensely viewed. Each illustration presents a complete view of real, school-based examples of teaching/learning from diverse school settings.

To further this work, ACARA is capturing examples of schools implementing the Australian Curriculum. These will be short vignettes showcasing ways various primary school leaders are approaching managing the implementation of the Australian Curriculum. They will encompass metropolitan, rural, regional, large and small schools with a variety of teaching staff. They will offer leadership teams an understanding of how different schools are successfully managing the implementation of the Australian Curriculum and ideally will assist schools to make decisions at a local level.

The vignettes will be available on the Australian Curriculum website later this year.

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Primary curriculum team members are happy to discuss these projects. Contact them directly by email:  
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