Welcome to the first edition of Primary Matters for 2015. This newsletter provides more information about ACARA’s projects that will assist primary schools across Australia.

Responding to the Australian Government’s Australian Curriculum review

As a result of the review of the Australian Curriculum in 2014, four curriculum-related themes were identified by the federal government:

- resolving the overcrowded curriculum
- improving parental engagement around the curriculum
- improving accessibility for all students
- rebalancing the curriculum.

Following advice from ACARA at the 5 March 2015 meeting of education ministers ACARA was asked to begin work on its proposed actions in response to the four themes. On 12–13 March 2015, 16 practicing primary teachers from around the country attended a workshop with ACARA officers to provide input and feedback about options for reducing, redesigning and rebalancing the curriculum for primary schools. Work is underway in response to the feedback from the workshop as curriculum writers draft refinements to each of the learning areas for consultation with state and territory authorities and key stakeholders. Refinements to the Australian Curriculum will be presented to the ACARA Board in June and if approved forwarded to education ministers for their consideration.

ACARA is also considering ways to better support teachers of students with disability and provide information to parents about the Australian Curriculum. Work in these two areas will take place in the second half of the year, following consultation with key stakeholders.

Practicing primary teachers workshop – ACARA March 2015
Primary curriculum team members are happy to discuss these projects. Contact them directly by email:

Laraine Lucas – Primary Curriculum Lead: laraine.lucas@acara.edu.au
Jenny Avvenevole – Senior Project Officer Early Childhood and Primary: jenny.avvenevole@acara.edu.au
Illustrations of primary curriculum management

The illustrations of primary curriculum management are now available on the Australian Curriculum website. In 2014 over 20 schools from around Australia shared the journeys they have taken in managing the Australian Curriculum in their schools. Viewing the videos will give leadership teams the opportunity to consider the approaches taken by different schools. The schools, which are representative of government, Catholic and independent sectors, are drawn from metropolitan, rural and remote areas, and range in size from 130 to over 700 students.

Each school describes the steps they are undertaking to manage the Australian Curriculum. Planning proformas, timetables or other documents that provide insight into the processes they are following are also included with the videos. See below some of the schools featured on the website:

Alice Springs School of the Air
Lansdowne Crescent Primary School
Sadadeen Primary School
Mawson Primary School

Please pass our newsletter on to your primary colleagues. The Primary Curriculum team contact details are below and we would welcome any feedback or questions about ACARA’s work.

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