

ACARA's actions in responding to the Review of the Australian Curriculum

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ACARA actions to address the review

Key areas of work:

- resolving the overcrowded primary curriculum and rebalance the curriculum
- strengthening phonics and phonemic awareness in the Australian Curriculum: English
- refining the presentation of the Australian Curriculum on the website
- improving accessibility for all students
- improving parental access to the Australian Curriculum.

Reduce the quantity of content descriptions and/or achievement standards

Actions completed

- Consult with a sample of practising teachers (12, 13 March)
- Work with writers/lead writers to develop draft changes to content descriptions and/or achievement standards (March - April)
- Develop consultation documents of tracked draft changes to content descriptions and/or achievement standards (April)
- Develop online consultation surveys; one for overall comments and one for each learning area (April)
- Distribute consultation documents and online surveys to state and territory curriculum and school authorities; key stakeholders and practising teachers (17 April)

Reduce the quantity of content descriptions and/or achievement standards

Future actions

- Receive consultation feedback from state and territory curriculum and school authorities; key stakeholders and sample of practising teachers (17 April to 15 May)
- Collate, analyse and respond to feedback from consultation (May)
- Revise draft changes to content descriptions and/or achievement standards (May)
- F-12 CRG meeting (15 June)
- Board approval (25 June)
- Agreed changes to content descriptions and/or achievement standards submitted to the Education Council for endorsement.

Strengthen the presence of phonics and phonemic awareness in AC: English

Actions completed

- Consultation with a sample of practising teachers (12, 13 March)
- Consultation with seven experts in phonemic awareness and phonics (phonics forum 20 March).
- Consultation with state and territory curriculum and school authorities on ways to strengthen the current curriculum (F-12 CRG 26 March and CDG 27 March)
- Working with English writers to develop draft changes to content descriptions and achievement standards (March - April)
- Developing consultation document of tracked draft changes to content descriptions and/or achievement standards (April)
- Developing online consultation survey (April)
- Distributing consultation documents and online surveys to state and territory curriculum and school authorities; key stakeholders and practising teachers (17 April)

Strengthen the presence of phonics and phonemic awareness in AC: English

Future actions

- Revise and strengthen Australian Curriculum: English glossary of terms and explanation on the Australian Curriculum: English section of the website (April - May)
- Receive consultation feedback on revised content descriptions from state and territory curriculum and school authorities; key stakeholders and sample of practising teachers (17 April to 15 May)
- Collate, analyse and respond to feedback from consultation (May)
- Revise draft changes to content descriptions and/or achievement standards (May)
- Prepare revised Australian Curriculum: English website text and glossary
- F-12 CRG meeting (15 June)
- Board approval (25 June)
- Agreed changes to content descriptions and/or achievement standards submitted to the Education Council for endorsement.

Refine the presentation of the AC website to improve clarity and reduce complexity

Actions completed

- Consult with a sample of practising teachers (12, 13 March)
- Work with writers/lead writers to consider possible refinements to Australian Curriculum learning area website text such as year or band level descriptions (March - April)
- Commence development of proposed Australian Curriculum website changes (April)
- Revise identification of general capabilities and cross curriculum priorities in so the primacy of learning areas is highlighted.

Refine the presentation of the AC website to improve clarity and reduce complexity

Future actions

- Develop refinements to Australian Curriculum website changes to reduce volume and complexity of text (May)
- Consultation on proposed Australian Curriculum website changes with F-12 CRG meeting (15 June) and Curriculum Directors meeting (5 June)
- Upload Australian Curriculum website changes to UAT website for Board consideration (mid June)
- Board approval (25 June)
- Forward agreed changes to Australian Curriculum website to the Education Council for noting
- Release refinements to the Australian Curriculum website and changes to content descriptions and achievements standards on a beta website

Improve accessibility for all students

- Consultation process:
 - SWDAG (18th March; 27th May)
 - State/Territory authorities
 - Academics; peak groups
- Development of options for the Board's consideration with recommendation (25 June Board meeting)
- Recommended option/s to Education Council

Improving parental access to the Australian Curriculum

Actions completed

- Consult with a sample of practising teachers about strategies used at the school level to inform parents about the curriculum (12, 13 March)
- Discussion held at Students with Disability Advisory Group meeting on 18 March on how to improve access to the Australian Curriculum for parents of students with disability
- Discussion held and presentations made at Curriculum Directors Group meeting (27 March) on strategies used in each state/territory and schooling sectors to improve parental access to the Australian Curriculum
- Initial discussion held with Education Services Australia (ESA) regarding data ESA has recently collected on this same issue

Improving parental access to the Australian Curriculum

Future actions

- Access data held by ESA
- Identify gaps in the data and undertake strategy to acquire additional data
- Meetings with peak parent bodies in May to seek feedback on possible actions ACARA could undertake
- Develop options for improving parental information about the Australian Curriculum to be presented to the F-12 CRG meeting (15 June) for feedback and advice
- Develop draft materials (June and July)
- Consult with peak parent bodies (August and September)
- Board approval (October)
- Agreed advice submitted to the Education Council for endorsement

Your Questions...