

MEDIA RELEASE

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ACARA welcomes inaugural Chief Executive Officer



The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) today welcomed Dr Peter Hill as the authority's first Chief Executive Officer.

ACARA Board Chair, Professor Barry McGaw AO, said "This is an outstanding appointment. It is a coup for Australia that Dr Hill is choosing to return to lead ACARA's efforts in helping to build a world-class school education system here.

"Dr Hill has had an extraordinary career that is directly relevant for his role as ACARA's Chief Executive. He has been head of a major curriculum and examination authority in Australia and Hong Kong, head of the Victorian Department of School Education, professor of education at the University of Melbourne and director of research in a national centre on education and the economy in the US.

Prior to taking up his appointment, Dr Hill was a Senior Adviser to the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority and an educational consultant on projects in Australia, Canada, the Middle East, the United Kingdom and the USA. From 2004 to 2007, Dr Hill was Secretary General of the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA), where he played a key role in developing and implementing changes in curriculum, assessment and certification in a major reform.

Commenting on his new role, Dr Hill said, "The creation of ACARA is an historic opportunity to bring together cutting-edge thinking, practice and technology to deliver nothing less than the best in classrooms across the nation. I feel enormously honoured to be returning to Australia to work with such outstanding and committed people on such a significant and worthwhile task.

"My observation of education systems globally is that improvement is achieved when the focus is on the best ways of supporting quality of classroom instruction. I have a deep respect for the teaching profession, began my career in the classroom and regard myself as first and foremost a teacher. The challenge is for ACARA to make a meaningful contribution to the ongoing improvement efforts of teachers and school leaders.

"In some respects, this appointment also represents 'unfinished business' as I was closely involved in efforts to establish a national curriculum in Australia over 20 years ago. We have come a long way since then and have a much better understanding of what it takes to improve learning and bring about positive change in schools," Dr Hill concluded.

Dr Hill will take up the position of ACARA Chief Executive Officer on 28 September, 2009. The role will be based in Melbourne initially and transfer to Sydney in early 2010.

-Ends-

Further information on Dr Peter Hill's professional CV follows:

Peter Hill was educated in England and began his career in education as a geography teacher in London secondary schools. He moved to Western Australia in 1970.

Positions

- Senior Adviser, Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (2008-)
- Secretary General, Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (2004-2007)
- Director of Research and Development, National Centre on Education and the Economy, Washington D.C. (2001-2004) The NCEE is a not-for-profit think-tank and a service organisation that provides assistance to some 500 schools and districts across the USA to improve the academic achievements of students in low-performing schools.
- Professor of Education, The University of Melbourne (1993-2000), appointed to Foundation Chair of Educational Leadership and Management from 1994
- Chief General Manager of the Department of School Education in Victoria (1989-1992)
- Chairperson and Chief Executive of the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Board (1986-1989)
- Superintendent of Research and Assistant Director (Planning) in Western Australia (1984-86).
- Secondary teacher and research officer (1967-1984).

Board memberships

- Board member, Australian Council for Educational Research (1998-2000, 2005-2007)
- Chair, Board of Directors, Australian Principals Centre (1998-2000)
- Trustee, National Centre on Education and the Economy, USA (1998-2000)
- Member, Australian Research Council (1997-1999)

Qualifications and Awards

- CertEd. (Birmingham)
- BA (Hons) (London)
- Dip. Ed. (Murdoch)
- Ph.D (Murdoch)
- F.A.C.E. (Fellow of the Australian College of Education)
- F.A.C.E.A. (Honorary Fellow of the Australian Council for Educational Administration)

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