

Implementation

Q: When will the Australian Curriculum be implemented?

A: The development of the Australian Curriculum for English, mathematics, science and history will be completed in the third quarter of 2010.

While the process of implementing the Australian Curriculum is a matter for each state and territory, ACARA will assist states and territories in this regard.

Implementation of the Australian Curriculum is likely to vary by learning areas and by states and territories depending on the extent of difference between the new Australian Curriculum and existing state and territory curricula. ACARA is working with state and territory education authorities to map the extent of change to assist them to develop their implementation plans.

While there will be flexibility in commencement of implementation of the Australian Curriculum for K-10 English, mathematics, science and history depending on specific issues to be addressed in each jurisdiction, all states and territories have committed to working towards implementation by 2013.

Timelines for implementation of the senior secondary Australian Curriculum are currently being developed and are subject to decisions to be made by the MCEECDYA. Various state and territory policies and practices will also influence the specific implementation timelines of individual jurisdictions, including the extent to which state or territory credentialing or other arrangements require additional material to be developed and made available to teachers.

Q: Will ACARA specify required hours of instruction for learning areas?

A: ACARA will not specify required hours for learning areas. ACARA has provided indicative time allocations for each phase one learning area to help guide the curriculum writers.

ACARA recognises that time allocations for subject areas vary across jurisdictions, education systems and schools.

Q: What curriculum material and professional learning support will be provided to assist the implementation of the Australian Curriculum?

A: The development of the Australian Curriculum is a shared responsibility of Australian and state and territory governments. Implementation of the Australian Curriculum is the responsibility of state and territory education authorities, with ACARA playing a national coordination role.

At the national level, the newly established Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) and Education Services Australia are expected to play a key role alongside the various professional and subject associations and other agencies in supporting the implementation of the Australian Curriculum.

One of the benefits of a national curriculum is that national and state and territory resources can be pooled to be available to support all teachers.

At a local level, it is expected there will be extensive use of local and site-based professional learning, supported by online professional development.

In the first instance, questions and issues regarding the implementation of the Australian Curriculum should be directed to the relevant state and territory education authorities.

Q: Will schools be able to continue to offer alternative curriculum?

A: Under the National Education Agreement and the *Schools Assistance Act 2008*, all schools and school systems have committed to introduce the Australian Curriculum.

ACARA is developing a national recognition process for well established alternative curricula in the context of the Australian Curriculum. Until a national approach is developed and accepted, schools that offer well established alternative curricula, such as Steiner, Montessori and International Baccalaureate, will continue to operate under state and territory registration arrangements.

Q: What will happen to existing state and territory courses that schools currently offer, some of which are not contained within the senior secondary Australian Curriculum?

A: Where a senior secondary Australian Curriculum course covers the scope of learning in existing state and territory courses, states and territories will cease to offer them. Where the scope of learning in an existing state and territory senior secondary course is not covered in a course within the Australian Curriculum, the existing course may continue to be offered by a jurisdiction. The extent of the senior secondary Australian Curriculum (i.e., the number of national courses available) in the first four subjects, and in other subjects, may grow over time.

Q: What will happen to existing state and territory assessment and certification requirements for the senior secondary years?

A: State and territory senior secondary courses comprise a number of elements. They include content, achievement standards, assessment requirements and certification requirements. ACARA is developing curriculum content and achievement standards in the 14 senior secondary courses within English, mathematics, science and history. State and territory curriculum and certification authorities will provide any other elements that complete the course packages in accordance with local state or territory requirements. Certification, assessment and examination requirements for the senior secondary years will continue to be the legislative responsibility of individual states and territories.