

**CHINESE, ITALIAN LANGUAGE CURRICULA
RELEASED FOR CONSULTATION**

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) today released the draft Australian Curriculum: Languages in Chinese and Italian for Foundation to Year 10 for public consultation through to 12 April 2013.

“This is a historic step in the development of the Australian Curriculum,” said Mr Robert Randall, CEO of ACARA.

“With the release of the draft Australian Curriculum: Languages in Chinese and Italian, we are that much closer to fulfilling one of the key promises of the Australian Curriculum, namely, that every school student in Australia will have the opportunity to study a language other than English.”

“ACARA acknowledges that a national curriculum for Languages needs to cater for a wide variety of learners and school settings. The flexibility built into the draft curriculum means that while every student has the same entitlement in this very important area, schools can adjust their delivery depending on their context, locality and resources.”

“In beginning with these two languages, we are recognising that Italian is one of the primary languages other than English spoken in Australian homes, while the draft Chinese curriculum brings us closer to fulfilling the goals of the Australia in the Asian Century White Paper,” said Mr Randall.

ACARA developed the draft F-10 Australian Curriculum: Languages for Chinese and Italian using the guiding principles outlined in the Shape of the Australian Curriculum: Languages paper and in close consultation with expert advisory groups. The Shape paper was the culmination of feedback received from over 2000 stakeholders representing a wide range of languages, communities and expertise and was published on 21 November 2011.

The consultation which begins today will also provide an opportunity for stakeholders with interest in any language to give feedback on the overarching aspects of the Languages Learning Area that apply to all languages.

Feedback from national consultation and the intensive engagement activity with schools will be analysed and used to inform revisions to the final F-10 Australian Curriculum: Languages

for Chinese and Italian due for publication in late 2013 and, subject to the approval of education ministers, available for implementation from 2014.

Development of the Australian Curriculum: Languages for Arabic, French, German, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Modern Greek, Spanish and Vietnamese, and a Framework for Aboriginal Languages and Torres Strait Islander Languages is underway and consultation is scheduled for April to July 2013.

ACARA is undertaking further work to determine the process and timelines for developing Australian Curriculum in additional languages (in the first instance, for Auslan, Classical languages, Hindi and Turkish).

To find out how to view the draft Australian Curriculum: Languages and find out how to provide feedback, visit the ACARA website, www.acara.edu.au.

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About ACARA:

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) is the independent authority responsible for the development of a national curriculum, a national assessment program and a national data collection and reporting program that supports 21st century learning for all Australian students. ACARA's work is carried out in collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders, including teachers, principals, governments, State and Territory education authorities, professional education associations, community groups and the general public.