

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ACARA Releases Draft Australian Curriculum for National Consultation

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) today released the draft K-10 Australian Curriculum in the four learning areas of English, mathematics, science and history for national consultation.

The release of the draft Australian Curriculum is the next stage in a process that commenced in August 2008 (outlined below*). Throughout this process a significant number of teachers, curriculum experts, academics and professional association representatives have been directly involved in the development of the draft curriculum.

According to ACARA Board Chair, Professor Barry McGaw AO, "It is now time to engage the education and broader community across Australia in a conversation about what it is we want young people to learn in these four areas.

"The overall aim is to produce a final curriculum in English, history, mathematics, and science that equips all young Australians with the essential skills, knowledge and capabilities to thrive and compete in the globalised world and information rich workplaces of the current century," he said.

Feedback is easy to provide and anyone in Australian can provide feedback.

The consultation portal, www.australiancurriculum.edu.au, hosts the draft curriculum. Here, anyone can:

- View, read or print the draft materials
- Provide feedback on any part of the draft curriculum directly, online
- Complete an online survey by rating areas of the draft curriculum or providing comments
- Provide additional notes and written feedback online, as an attachment to the survey

In addition, teachers wishing to provide feedback can attend state and territory consultation sessions and workshops where they are invited to provide direct feedback on the draft curriculum materials.

"We are confident that the draft curriculum reflects the overall aim of the curriculum development process, which is to produce a 21st Century Australian curriculum. However I emphasise that these materials are only in draft form and will be refined based on the feedback we receive," said Professor McGaw.

Feedback from the various sources will be collated, analysed and made publicly available. The analysis will result in decisions about adjustments and refinements that need to be made to the draft Australian Curriculum prior to final publication, later in 2010.

The consultation period for these four learning areas will extend through to 23 May, 2010 and final curriculum will be available to be taught in Australian schools from 2011.

The draft curriculum for the senior secondary years, in English, mathematics, history and science will be released in April 2010, for three months of national consultation.

Draft curriculum for further learning areas including geography, arts, and languages will follow, for national consultation in 2011.

ACARA's work in developing the Australian curriculum is guided by the 2008 *Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians*. The Declaration commits to supporting all young Australians to become successful learners, confident and creative individuals, and active and informed citizens. It also commits to promoting equity and excellence in education.

*Steps taken by ACARA to develop the draft Australian Curriculum have included:

- The appointment of lead writers to develop outlines for the curriculum in these four areas.
- A series of national meetings held in October 2008 to consider directions for the development of the English, mathematics, science and history curriculum.
- A period of national consultation in early 2009 that resulted in the publication of a series of Shape of the Australian Curriculum documents. These documents provided the writing instructions for writers to draft the curriculum which is now available for consultation.

ENDS

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About ACARA

The Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) is an independent authority responsible for:

- A national curriculum from Kindergarten to Year 12 in specified learning areas.
- A national assessment program aligned to the national curriculum that measures students' progress.
- A national data collection and reporting program.

Visit the ACARA website here www.acara.edu.au or view the ACARA Act.