

## Development of the Australian Curriculum

### What learning areas will be included in the Australian Curriculum?

The Australian Curriculum will include the eight learning areas outlined in the *Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians* (2008). The Melbourne Declaration can be found at <[www.mceecdya.edu.au/verve/\\_resources/National\\_Declaration\\_on\\_the\\_Educational\\_Goals\\_for\\_Young\\_Australians.pdf](http://www.mceecdya.edu.au/verve/_resources/National_Declaration_on_the_Educational_Goals_for_Young_Australians.pdf)>.

The development of the curriculum will be completed in phases:

- Phase 1 — English, Mathematics, Science and History
- Phase 2 — Geography, The Arts and Languages
- Phase 3 — Health and Physical Education, Design and Technology, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Economics, Business, and Civics and Citizenship.

The curriculum in each learning area, for each year level, will include:

- content descriptions. The content descriptions embed:
  - seven general capabilities: Literacy, Numeracy, Information and communication technology (ICT) capability, Critical and creative thinking, Ethical capability, Personal and social capability and Intercultural capability
  - three cross-curriculum priorities: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures, Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia, and Sustainability
- achievement standards.

### When will Phase 2 of the Australian Curriculum be developed?

#### *The Arts*

The *Shape of the Australian Curriculum: The Arts* sets the broad direction for the writing of the Australian Curriculum for The Arts and is available with a draft timetable for development online at <[www.acara.edu.au/curriculum/arts.html](http://www.acara.edu.au/curriculum/arts.html)>.

#### *Geography*

The *Shape of the Australian Curriculum: Geography* sets the broad direction for the writing of the Australian Curriculum for Geography and is available with a draft timetable for development online at <[www.acara.edu.au/curriculum/geography.html](http://www.acara.edu.au/curriculum/geography.html)>.

ACARA is currently conducting consultation on the draft Foundation to Year 12 Australian Curriculum: Geography until 29 February 2012. Members of the education profession and the general community are invited to participate in this online consultation opportunity by going to the Australian Curriculum website and clicking the consultation link.

## Languages

The draft *Shape of the Australian Curriculum: Languages* sets the broad direction for the writing of the Australian Curriculum for Languages and is available with a draft timetable for development online at <[www.acara.edu.au/curriculum/languages.html](http://www.acara.edu.au/curriculum/languages.html)>.

## When will Phase 3 of the Australian Curriculum be developed?

### Health and Physical Education

A draft timeline for the development of the Australian Curriculum: Health and Physical Education is now available online at <[www.acara.edu.au/verve/\\_resources/Timeline\\_for\\_the\\_development\\_of\\_Australian\\_Curriculum\\_-\\_Health\\_and\\_Physical\\_Education.pdf](http://www.acara.edu.au/verve/_resources/Timeline_for_the_development_of_Australian_Curriculum_-_Health_and_Physical_Education.pdf)>.

### Technologies

The shaping phase of the curriculum development process for the Technologies learning area (ICT and Design and Technology) commenced in late August 2011. A national forum was convened to provide feedback on the draft initial advice paper. The draft *Shape of the Australian Curriculum: Technologies* paper will be developed prior to public consultation in early 2012. Further information is available at <[www.acara.edu.au/curriculum/technologies.html](http://www.acara.edu.au/curriculum/technologies.html)>.

### Other learning areas

More information about Phase 3 Australian Curriculum development will soon be available.

## How many national senior courses are being developed and how will this impact on the curriculum offered in Queensland schools?

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) is developing 14 senior secondary courses in English, Mathematics, Science and History.

### English

- Essential English, focusing on literacy and language skills for effective participation in work, training and community, social and civic life
- English, focusing on language and literature and meeting the demands for further study, work and community, social and civic life
- English as an additional language (EAL)
- a two-year Literature course

### Mathematics

- Essential Mathematics, focusing on applied Mathematics for everyday life
- General Mathematics, focusing on Mathematics suitable for preparation for further study with a moderate demand in Mathematics
- Mathematical Methods, focusing on higher level Mathematics
- Specialist mathematics, for students with a strong interest in Mathematics or those who wish to study further in Mathematics or Engineering

## **Science**

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Earth and Environmental Science
- Physics

## **History**

- Ancient History
- Modern History

This is a familiar range of courses, and matches the courses currently offered in Queensland. The list of senior secondary courses developed by ACARA may grow in time if there is national agreement.

It is unlikely that the Australian Curriculum senior secondary courses will be implemented in Queensland before 2015.

## **Is Queensland represented in the writing of the Australian Curriculum?**

Yes, Queensland is involved at every level in the writing of the Australian Curriculum.

### **Writing teams**

Queensland educators are members of writing teams and have played a significant role in developing the curriculum. Appointed writers have learning and/or curriculum development experience as well as teaching and/or education-related experience.

### **Advisory panels**

ACARA has established a number of advisory panels and Queensland is represented on all of them. For a complete list, see the ACARA website at <[www.acara.edu.au/curriculum\\_writers\\_and\\_advisory\\_panels.html](http://www.acara.edu.au/curriculum_writers_and_advisory_panels.html)>.

In addition, the QSA, in partnership with the school sectors, has coordinated Queensland responses to all of the shape papers and draft curriculum. These responses are available on the QSA website at <[www.qsa.qld.edu.au/13635.html](http://www.qsa.qld.edu.au/13635.html)>.

Foundation to Year 12 learning area and cross-curriculum advisory panels also assist curriculum writers by providing advice on draft materials at key stages in the development process.

### **Your involvement**

ACARA encourages direct input from educators including teachers, school principals, trainers, university lecturers and the wider community including industry, parents, students and young people. Get involved by visiting: [www.acara.edu.au](http://www.acara.edu.au)

## **More information**

For more information, please:

- email [australiancurriculum@qsa.qld.edu.au](mailto:australiancurriculum@qsa.qld.edu.au)
- access the QSA online forum: [forums.qsa.qld.edu.au](http://forums.qsa.qld.edu.au)
- visit the QSA website <[www.qsa.qld.edu.au](http://www.qsa.qld.edu.au)> and search for “Australian Curriculum”.