

Implementation of the Australian Curriculum

When will Phase 1 of the F–10 Australian Curriculum be implemented in Queensland?

The Phase 1 implementation announcement on 24 June 2010 by the Minister for Education and Training, Geoff Wilson, gave Queensland teachers firm timelines to work towards.

In Queensland, in:

- 2012 — Queensland schools will implement (teach, assess and report) the F(P)–10 Australian Curriculum in English, Mathematics and Science and introduce (raise awareness, engage and understand) the F(P)–10 Australian Curriculum in History
- 2013 — Queensland schools will implement the F(P)–10 Australian Curriculum in History.

Schools that are prepared and able can implement the Australian Curriculum sooner. However, planned professional development and resources will be developed to support the State implementation plan.

How will schools be supported to implement the Australian Curriculum?

To support schools to plan and prepare for implementation, the three schooling sectors are working with the QSA to develop advice and resources. These are available on the QSA website and include:

- QSA workshops that, in 2012, will focus on:
 - planning for implementing the Australian Curriculum: History
 - standards and assessment.

For details of upcoming workshops, see: www.qsa.qld.edu.au/12842.html

- detailed mapping of the Australian Curriculum and Queensland curriculum — www.qsa.qld.edu.au/13634.html
- audit tools that provide an approach to checking a school's current program against the Australian Curriculum — www.qsa.qld.edu.au/13634.html
- templates and exemplars that provide practical guidance for developing whole school plans, year level plans and unit overviews for English, Mathematics and Science for single year and multiple years contexts — www.qsa.qld.edu.au/13634.html
Templates and exemplars for History will be available during Semester 1, 2012
- learning area standards descriptors that support teachers in making A–E judgments about student achievement — www.qsa.qld.edu.au/13634.html
- online professional development in the form of video recordings of online professional development modules facilitated by QSA — www.qsa.qld.edu.au/15812.html

- advice and guidelines including
 - time allocations and entitlement
 - P–2 assessment, standards and reporting information statements
 - Years 3–10 assessment, standards and reporting

See: www.qsa.qld.edu.au/9188.html

Schooling sectors will provide additional support that is specific to Catholic, Independent and State schools.

What do I need to use to implement the Australian Curriculum?

Teachers need to use the following essential materials, available through the QSA website, to develop their curriculum:

- content descriptions (developed by ACARA)
- achievement standards (developed by ACARA)
- assessment advice and guidelines (developed by QSA)
- reporting advice and guidelines (developed by QSA).

When will the Phase 1 senior secondary Australian Curriculum be published?

ACARA has consulted on the content descriptions for 14 senior secondary courses. See Queensland's response to this consultation on the QSA website: www.qsa.qld.edu.au/13635.html

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

Further information about implementation will be provided as it becomes available.

What happens to the other senior secondary courses currently offered in Queensland?

When the Australian senior secondary courses are implemented in Queensland, the equivalent Queensland course will cease to be offered. For example, when the Australian course for Physics is implemented, the Queensland Physics course will no longer be available.

Other courses currently available for Years 11 and 12 will continue to be offered, subject to QSA's processes for revising, maintaining and developing courses in the senior phase of learning.

Transition to the Australian Curriculum may mean the revision cycles for some Queensland curriculum documents are revised to ensure the least disruption to teachers.

Any senior secondary courses that are not developed by ACARA will continue to be developed by the QSA. The list of senior secondary courses developed by ACARA may grow in time if there is national agreement.

Will Queensland's school-based assessment continue when the Australian Curriculum is implemented?

Yes. In Queensland, teachers will continue to:

- use standards-based school-based assessment
- plan balanced assessment programs
- develop quality assessment instruments that align with teaching and learning
- use moderation opportunities to support their judgments about students' achievements.

ACARA is developing content descriptions and achievement standards. States and territories are responsible for assessment and reporting. This means that Queensland schools will continue to use standards-based school-based assessment.

In the senior phase of schooling, standards for the end of Year 11 and standards at the end of Year 12 will be developed. This may require revision of the way we approach externally moderated school-based assessment.

What is the role of the QSA in the implementation of the Australian Curriculum?

The QSA will continue to be responsible for the delivery of the nationally agreed curriculum content and achievement standards in Queensland. That is, the QSA will determine:

- assessment requirements
- certification requirements
- quality assurance requirements.

The QSA will continue to have responsibility for the learning areas not covered by the Australian Curriculum.

In addition, while the Australian Curriculum will be designed to meet the needs of the full range of students, a number of local arrangements will need to be developed and supported for students with special learning needs.

Are Queensland schools required to implement the Australian Curriculum?

Yes. All Australian schools will implement (teach, assess and report) the F–10 Australian Curriculum in English, Mathematics, Science and History.

Over time this will extend to include the learning areas of Geography, The Arts, Languages, Business, Economics, Civics and Citizenship, Health and Physical Education, and Design and Technology.

Queensland courses that overlap significantly with Australian Curriculum courses will cease to be offered.

What role will ACARA play in implementation?

ACARA will facilitate national strategies.

Queensland-specific advice and direction will be provided by QSA and the schooling sectors (Education Queensland, Queensland Catholic Education Commission and Independent Schools Queensland).

More information

For more information, please:

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