

ACARA's four-year plan: 2017–18 to 2020–21 Endorsed by the Education Council out of session – January 2018

Responsibilities	Key Activities 2017/18	Key activities 2018/19	Key activities 2019/20	Key activities 2020/21
National Curriculum				
Provide a world-class curriculum from Foundation to Year 12 in specified learning areas agreed to by Council				
1. Delivering the Foundation to Year 10 and Senior Secondary Australian Curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with interested jurisdictions and other stakeholders to develop processes considering additional senior secondary curriculum for consideration by ACARA Board, AESOC and Council Maintain the accuracy and quality of curriculum information provided on the Australian Curriculum website Maintain the online functionality and service delivery of the website Implement the first phase of the strategic plan for improvement of the Australian Curriculum website. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement any agreed actions, within agreed related budget, around senior secondary curriculum Maintain the accuracy and quality of curriculum information provided on the Australian Curriculum website Maintain the online functionality and service delivery of the website Implement the second phase of improvement of the Australian Curriculum website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement any agreed actions, within agreed related budget, around senior secondary curriculum Maintain the accuracy and quality of curriculum information provided on the Australian Curriculum website Maintain the online functionality and service delivery of the website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement any agreed actions, within agreed related budget, around senior secondary curriculum Maintain the accuracy and quality of curriculum information provided on the Australian Curriculum website Maintain the online functionality and service delivery of the website
2. Strengthening assessment of student learning of the Australian Curriculum through provision of student work samples and NAP development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and publish portfolios of work samples (illustrating at the standard) for Arabic, German, Korean, Modern Greek, Spanish, Vietnamese Review the quality and coverage of the portfolios of student work and prepare a plan for enhancements Provide subject matter expertise to align NAP to the Australian Curriculum and ensure quality of assessment items Provide Australian Curriculum subject matter expertise to analyse NAP data and identify curriculum, teaching and assessment implications Research innovative strategies and practices for assessment of all learning areas of the Australian Curriculum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and publish portfolios of work samples (illustrating at the standard) for Classical languages, Hindi, Turkish and Auslan Implement enhancements to the portfolios of student work Provide subject matter expertise to align NAP to the Australian Curriculum and ensure quality of assessment items Provide Australian Curriculum subject matter expertise to analyse NAP data and identify curriculum, teaching and assessment implications Prepare illustrations of innovative quality assessment strategies and practices across all learning areas of the Australian Curriculum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement enhancements to the portfolios of student work Provide subject matter expertise to align NAP to the Australian Curriculum and ensure quality of assessment items Provide Australian Curriculum subject matter expertise to analyse NAP data and identify curriculum, teaching and assessment implications Finalise and publish illustrations of innovative, quality assessment of the Australian Curriculum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide subject matter expertise to align NAP to the Australian Curriculum and ensure quality of assessment items Provide Australian Curriculum subject matter expertise to the area of assessment to identify curriculum, teaching and assessment implications
3. Providing authoritative Australian Curriculum advice to stakeholders and facilitating information sharing, collaboration and support for the Australian Curriculum.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate information sharing about the Australian Curriculum and its implementation with stakeholders Undertake final cycle of assessment of alternative curriculum frameworks and update Recognition Register on the ACARA website Provide expertise and advice to stakeholders, on request, to support implementation of the Australian Curriculum Develop and publish illustrations of practice for the cross-curriculum priorities of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate information sharing about the Australian Curriculum and its implementation with stakeholders. Maintain Recognition Register of alternative curriculum on the ACARA website Provide expertise and advice to stakeholders, on request, to support implementation of the Australian Curriculum Develop and publish illustrations of practice for the Australian Curriculum general capabilities of ICT Capability and Critical and Creative Thinking Develop and publish exemplars to support the Framework for Aboriginal Languages and Torres Strait Islander Languages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate information sharing about the Australian Curriculum and its implementation with stakeholders Maintain Recognition Register of alternative curriculum on the ACARA website Provide expertise and advice to stakeholders, on request, to support implementation of the Australian Curriculum Develop and publish illustrations of practice for the Australian Curriculum general capabilities of Personal and Social Capability, Intercultural Understanding and Ethical Understanding and the cross-curriculum priorities of Asia and Australia's Engagement with Asia and Sustainability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate information sharing about the Australian Curriculum and its implementation with stakeholders Maintain Recognition Register of alternative curriculum on the ACARA website Provide expertise and advice to stakeholders, on request, to support implementation of the Australian Curriculum
Assemble the evidence base required to review, develop and refine curriculum				
4. Monitoring the effectiveness of the Australian Curriculum by collecting, analysing and reporting annually on feedback.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to build an evidence base to assist in developing a plan for future directions for potential refinements of the Australian Curriculum Complete 2017 monitoring process and publish report. Benchmark the Australian Curriculum against two top performing school systems/nations. Undertake research and report on international developments and trends in curriculum design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to build an evidence base to assist in developing a plan for future directions for potential refinements of the Australian Curriculum Complete 2018 monitoring process and publish report. Review and revise the existing <i>Monitoring and Evaluation of the Australian Curriculum</i> framework. Benchmark the Australian Curriculum against two top performing school systems/nations. Revise the program of research for 2018/19 to 2021/22 and report on international developments and trends in curriculum design in 2018 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to build an evidence base to assist in developing a plan for future directions for potential refinements of the Australian Curriculum Provide advice on potential future directions for the Australian Curriculum for ACARA Board and Council consideration Complete 2019 monitoring process and publish report Develop an agreed process and plan for the review of Australian Curriculum in liaison with partners Benchmark the Australian Curriculum against top performing school systems. Undertake research and report on international developments and trends in curriculum design in 2019 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake agreed actions relating to the refinement of the Australian Curriculum within agreed related budget Complete 2020 monitoring process and publish report Subject to agreement, begin to undertake work towards the refinement of the Australian Curriculum in accordance with agreed process (as developed and agreed to in 2019-20) and informed by evidence gathered in 2016-17 to 2019-20.
5. Review and report on recent developments in research and international curriculum practice to inform national policy and practice and to further improve the Australian Curriculum.				

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National Assessment				
ACARA will provide a quality, comprehensive and cohesive suite of national assessments.				
1. Researching, developing and supporting activities required for assessment, especially the transition to online	<p><u>NAPLAN online</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus resources and activities on the transition to NAPLAN online Complete agreed actions around assessment development activities especially the transition to online in collaboration with jurisdictions and provide advice to Council Monitor progress with the implementation of NAPLAN online (eg system development, assessment, reports) to improve processes <p><u>National resource (or suite) of classroom-based assessments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake research and develop advice on options and budget requirements for a national classroom-based assessment resource for consideration by partners 	<p><u>NAPLAN online</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus resources and activities on the transition to NAPLAN online Implement any actions relating to ACARA's research work as agreed by Council Monitor the implementation of NAPLAN online (eg, system development, assessment, reports) to improve processes, including the addition of gain scores to Individual Student Reports (ISRs) subject to Council agreement/approval Review of current year NAP (full cohort assessment and sample assessment) for possible revisions or enhancements in collaboration with partners Implement any agreed actions, within agreed budget or potential reprioritisation of annual budget, around a national classroom-based assessment resource 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain focus on online assessment and monitor the implementation of NAPLAN online (eg, system development, assessment, reports) to improve processes Undertake research and develop advice on enhancements such as innovative assessment items Review and prepare and submit advice (informed by the review) on enhancements to the NAP program – full cohort and sample based Implement any agreed actions, within agreed within agreed budget or potential reprioritisation of annual budget, around a national classroom-based assessment resource 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor the implementation of NAPLAN online to improve processes Ensure any agreed actions relating to innovative assessment items are underway, within agreed related budget Ensure any agreed refinements to the NAP program – full cohort and sample based are underway Implement any agreed actions, within agreed budget or potential reprioritisation of annual budget, around a national classroom-based assessment resource
2. Manage the planning and development and oversee the delivery and reporting for the National Assessment Program (NAP) – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN), including the transition from pencil and paper to online delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish 2017 NAPLAN national report and test incidents report Manage test item development and delivery of NAPLAN 2018 (pencil and paper and online assessment) Monitor the implementation of the revised NAPLAN assessment framework, item development guidelines, skills progressions and exemplar items Prepare for NAPLAN online 2019 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish 2018 NAPLAN national report and test incidents report Manage test item development and delivery of NAPLAN 2019 (pencil and paper and/or online assessment – pending decision) Monitor the implementation of the revised NAPLAN assessment framework, item development guidelines, skills progressions and exemplar items Prepare for NAPLAN online 2020 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish 2019 NAPLAN national report and test incidents report Manage test item development and delivery of NAPLAN 2020 (online assessment) Review and revise the NAPLAN assessment framework, item development guidelines, skills progressions and exemplar items Prepare for NAPLAN online 2021 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish 2020 NAPLAN national report and test incidents report Manage test item development and delivery of NAPLAN 2021 (online assessment) Monitor the implementation of the revised NAPLAN assessment framework, item development guidelines, skills progressions and exemplar items Prepare for NAPLAN online 2022
3. Managing the development and overseeing the delivery of assessments and reporting for the National Assessment Program (NAP) sample assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish 2016 NAP C&C Report Deliver 2017 NAP ICTL Prepare for 2018 NAP SL Years 6 and 10, including conducting a pilot for Year 10 Revise the NAP: C&C assessment framework to include aspects of history and to align to the Australian Curriculum Begin the development of protocols to make NAP sample assessments and reports available to voluntary schools (schools beyond the sample cohort) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish 2017 NAP ICTL Report Deliver 2018 NAP SL Years 6 and 10 Prepare for 2019 NAP C&C inclusive of history where applicable Implement protocols and enable NAP sample assessments and reports to be available to voluntary schools Revise 2020 NAP ICTL assessment framework to align to the Australian Curriculum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish 2018 NAP SL Report Deliver 2019 NAP C&C Prepare for 2020 NAP ICTL Ensure NAP sample assessments and reports are available to schools participating voluntarily 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish 2019 NAP C&C Deliver 2020 NAP ICTL Prepare for 2021 NAP SL pending approval Monitor the participation of NAP sample assessments by voluntary schools

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National Data and Reporting				
Provide and apply a comprehensive and reliable national measurement framework				
1. Monitoring and where necessary reviewing the existing national key performance measures for schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake review and revision of the Measurement Framework in consultation with stakeholders and reference groups Research and liaise with partners on potential new national key performance measures, including student engagement and/or wellbeing and other measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit revised Measurement Framework to Council for endorsement Provide advice on potential new national key performance measures 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake review and revision of the Measurement Framework in consultation with stakeholders and reference groups Include any agreed new national key performance measures in the revision of the Measurement Framework

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Present detailed, accessible, timely and meaningful school education performance information				
2. Producing a comprehensive and authoritative national report on schooling in Australia related to national key performance measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare content of 2016 ANR. Consult with stakeholders in preparation for approval for publication of 2016 ANR Refresh and update the National Data Portal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare content of 2017 ANR. Consult with stakeholders in preparation for approval for publication of 2016 ANR Refresh and update the National Data Portal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare content of 2018 ANR. Consult with stakeholders in preparation for approval for publication of 2016 ANR Refresh and update the National Data Portal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare content of 2019 ANR. Consult with stakeholders in preparation for approval for publication of 2016 ANR Refresh and update the National Data Portal
3. Managing the collection and quality assurance of data and providing national school information through the <i>My School</i> website and continuing work to increase the accessibility of the website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement any agreed enhancements for <i>My School</i> and further consult with partners and prepare advice on the development of <i>My School</i> indicators and formats with the goal of presenting a more accessible comprehensive picture of schools Collect, validate and process data for <i>My School</i> 2018 and publish Update Australian Schools List 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement any agreed indicators and / or continue to consult with partners on the development of <i>My School</i> indicators and formats Collect, validate and process data for <i>My School</i> 2019 and publish Update Australian Schools List 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement any agreed indicators and / or continue to consult with partners on the development of <i>My School</i> indicators and formats Collect, validate and process data for <i>My School</i> 2020 and publish Update Australian Schools List 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review <i>My School</i> in consultation with partners and stakeholders Collect, validate and process data for <i>My School</i> 2021 and publish Update Australian Schools List
Facilitate the use and dissemination of data for research and policy development in accordance with agreed protocols				
4. Managing the sharing and dissemination of data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In consultation with partners and stakeholders, develop advice on data access Provide data to stakeholders in accordance with protocols 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement any agreed actions relating to data access and monitor Provide data to stakeholders in accordance with protocols Undertake review of data protocols 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement any agreed actions relating to improving data access and monitor Provide data to stakeholders in accordance with protocols Review ACARA's presentation of data / reports in liaison with partners and provide advice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide data to stakeholders in accordance with protocols Implement agreed activities relating to the improvement of the presentation of data / information

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National Collaboration and Leadership				
Provide effective national leadership in curriculum development, educational assessment and national reporting.				
1. Communicating information about ACARA's work and achievements to partners, stakeholders and the broader community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor and maintain the accuracy and quality of information provided on the Australian Curriculum, NAP, <i>My School</i> and ACARA websites and maintain a high level of functionality and service across all of ACARA's websites Lead national communications initiatives for transition to NAPLAN online Develop and implement communication strategies around all 2017/18 releases of information/ publications relating to the Australian Curriculum, national assessment, data collection and reporting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor and maintain the accuracy and quality of information provided on the Australian Curriculum, NAP, <i>My School</i> and ACARA websites and maintain a high level of functionality and service across all of ACARA's websites Lead national communications around NAPLAN online Develop and implement communication strategies around all 2018/19 releases of information/ publications relating to the Australian Curriculum, national assessment, data collection and reporting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor and maintain the accuracy and quality of information provided on the Australian Curriculum, NAP, <i>My School</i> and ACARA websites and maintain a high level of functionality and service across all ACARA's websites Lead national communications around NAP Develop and implement communication strategies around all 2019/20 releases of information/ publications relating to the Australian Curriculum, national assessment, data collection and reporting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor and maintain the accuracy and quality of information provided on the Australian Curriculum, NAP, <i>My School</i> and ACARA websites and maintain a high level of functionality and service across all of ACARA's websites Lead national communications around NAP Develop and implement communication strategies around all 2020/21 releases of information/ publications relating to the Australian Curriculum, national assessment, data collection and reporting
Closely collaborate with jurisdictions, the non-government education sector and relevant stakeholders in pursuing the national education agenda.				
2. Providing national leadership in curriculum, assessment, data collection and reporting directly and in collaboration with the Commonwealth, states, territories, non-government sector, AITSL, ESA and other stakeholder groups and ensure liaison with key stakeholders across all matters relating to curriculum, assessment and reporting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate national agreement and enact Education Council policy with respect to the Australian Curriculum, assessment, and data and reporting policy Prepare quality advice on matters relating to national curriculum, assessment and data and reporting to AESOC and Education Council through research, collaboration with jurisdictions and non-government national peak bodies Maintain liaison with ESA and AITSL - ensuring regular contact with ESA around online assessment Collaborate with key stakeholders and provide high quality and timely advice to AESOC/Council and government working groups via monthly reports and briefing papers Collaborate with professional associations, parent organisations, tertiary institutions and other interested 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate national agreement and enact Education Council policy with respect to the Australian Curriculum, assessment, and data and reporting policy Prepare quality advice on matters relating to national curriculum, assessment and data and reporting to AESOC and Education Council through research, collaboration with jurisdictions and non-government national peak bodies Maintain liaison with ESA and AITSL - ensuring regular contact with ESA around online assessment Collaborate with key stakeholders and provide high quality and timely advice to AESOC/Council and government working groups via monthly reports and briefing papers Collaborate with professional associations, parent organisations, tertiary institutions and other interested 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate national agreement and enact Education Council policy with respect to the Australian Curriculum, assessment, and data and reporting policy Prepare quality advice on matters relating to national curriculum, assessment and data and reporting to AESOC and Education Council through research, collaboration with jurisdictions and non-government national peak bodies Maintain liaison with ESA and AITSL - ensuring regular contact with ESA around online assessment Review ACARA's advisory structure to ensure it is fit-for-purpose, based on survey of stakeholders and partners Collaborate with key stakeholders and provide high quality and timely advice to AESOC/Council and government working groups via monthly reports and briefing papers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate national agreement and enact Education Council policy with respect to the Australian Curriculum, assessment, and data and reporting policy Prepare quality advice on matters relating to national curriculum, assessment and data and reporting to AESOC and Education Council through research, collaboration with jurisdictions and non-government national peak bodies Maintain liaison with ESA and AITSL - ensuring regular contact with ESA around online assessment Collaborate with key stakeholders and provide high quality and timely advice to AESOC/Council and government working groups via monthly reports and briefing papers Collaborate with professional associations, parent organisations, tertiary institutions and other interested

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	<p>parties, as appropriate, on research and learning and development projects that enhance support for the Australian Curriculum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement stakeholder engagement activities for the reporting year 	<p>parties, as appropriate, on research and learning and development projects that enhance support for the Australian Curriculum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement stakeholder engagement activities for the reporting year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with professional associations, parent organisations, tertiary institutions and other interested parties, as appropriate, on research and learning and development projects that enhance support for the Australian Curriculum Develop and implement stakeholder engagement activities for the reporting year 	<p>parties, as appropriate, on research and learning and development projects that enhance support for the Australian Curriculum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement stakeholder engagement activities for the reporting year
<p>3. Collaborating with international education bodies to ensure ACARA's work and advice to ministers is informed by leading research and better practice and provide support services internationally where this aligns with ACARA's core areas of work.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build a network of national and international experts in the field of school curriculum, assessment and reporting to ensure ACARA's work and advice is high quality Explore opportunities to generate revenue through international consultancy services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build a network of national and international experts in the field of school curriculum, assessment and reporting to ensure ACARA's work and advice is high quality Explore opportunities to generate revenue through international consultancy services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build a network of national and international experts in the field of school curriculum, assessment and reporting to ensure ACARA's work and advice is high quality Explore opportunities to generate revenue through international consultancy services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build a network of national and international experts in the field of school curriculum, assessment and reporting to ensure ACARA's work and advice is high quality Explore opportunities to generate revenue through international consultancy services