

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

24 February 2009

### **Key features in national curriculum examined at forums**

The National Curriculum Board (NCB) has organised three forums from 24 – 26 February to gain advice regarding the development of an inclusive and futures oriented curriculum for learners at all stages of schooling.

Professor Barry McGaw, NCB Chair, explained that the Board's remit highlights the importance of equity and diversity, learning for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and meeting the needs of all students in the development of the national curriculum.

"The key issue of equity and diversity relates to development of national curriculum that will be based on assumptions that all students are learners and every child matters. National curriculum will be accessible to all students and high standards will be expected while acknowledging the markedly different rates at which students develop," commented Professor McGaw.

"Developing a national curriculum for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century also needs to take account of the changing nature of young people as learners and the challenges and demands that will continue to shape their learning in the future."

"The Board needs to examine different curriculum approaches that may be required for different stages of schooling to support young people to grow and develop as successful learners."

Early feedback during consultation on the Board's *The Shape of the National Curriculum: A proposal for Discussion* (closed on 19 December 2008), indicated that there was a need to clarify questions being raised about equity and diversity, what it means to learn in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and to address the specific needs of each stages of schooling.

A wide range of national professional teaching organisations, state and territory education authorities, school based educators, business and industry professionals along with expert individuals and organisations in the fields of the forum topics will be engaged in key discussions during the three-day event.

Advice and recommendations received from the forums will inform the Board's decisions concerning the national curriculum and its subsequent instructions to curriculum writers.

“The Board will continue to progress with the development of a world class national curriculum for all young Australians, and these forums will guide us in ensuring that all key issues are addressed and investigated in the development process,” said Professor McGaw.

“The involvement of educational and topic specific experts in the forums are extremely valuable for the Board’s continuing work that aims to assist all students to become successful learners, confident and creative individuals and active and informed citizens.”

### **INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY**

Interview opportunity with Professor Barry McGaw, Chair of Board, can be arranged by contacting Rose Naughton.

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