

Australian Curriculum development timelines

How is the Australian Curriculum being developed?

The Australian Curriculum is being developed progressively by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA).

Development begins with a 'Shape paper' that describes the aims and rationale for the learning area, and how knowledge, understanding and skills will be developed across the learning area. The Shape paper then informs the curriculum writing, which involves drafting of content descriptions and achievement standards.

Each phase of development involves comprehensive consultation, review and revision processes. Once approved by the ACARA Board, the curriculum is then presented to Australian education ministers for final endorsement prior to publication.

ACARA's Curriculum Development Process paper (available at www.acara.edu.au) describes the process that is being used to develop the Australian Curriculum.

Learning areas not included in the Australian Curriculum will continue to be the responsibility of state and territory education authorities.

What is the timeline for development of the Australian Curriculum?

The table below summarises the key development phases:

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| 2008-2010 | Foundation to Year 10 Australian Curriculum for English, mathematics, science and history developed. (Senior secondary curriculum in these areas continues to be developed in 2011) |
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| 2010-2012 | Foundation to Year 12 Australian Curriculum for geography, languages and the arts to be developed. |
| 2011-2013 | Foundation to Year 12 Australian Curriculum including a focus on health and physical education, information and communication technology, design and technology, economics, business, civics and citizenship to be developed. |

2008-2010

Initial consultation on the draft Foundation to Year 10 English, mathematics, science and history curriculum occurred between March and May 2010. Initial consultation on the senior secondary Australian Curriculum content for English, mathematics, science and history took place between May and July 2010.

Feedback from the consultation on the draft Foundation to Year 10 Australian Curriculum was analysed and used to shape revisions and refinements. The revised curriculum was subject to further consultation with national panels of expert educators and with state and territory education authorities between July and October 2010.

Initial consultation on the draft senior secondary *Australian Curriculum* English, mathematics, science and history curriculum took place between May and July 2010. The consultation focused on the curriculum content and the feedback will inform the next draft of the senior secondary curriculum content and achievement standards. Further consultation is planned for 2011.

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2010-2012

Development of the Australian Curriculum involves geography, the arts and languages.

Geography

The *Shape of the Australian Curriculum: Geography* paper was released for public consultation between June and August 2010. Analysis of the consultation feedback will inform the development of the final version of *Shape of the Australian Curriculum: Geography* paper by the end of 2010. Writing of, and consultation on, the geography curriculum will occur during 2011.

The Arts

The *Shape of the Australian Curriculum: Arts* paper was released for public consultation between October and December 2010. Analysis of the consultation feedback will inform the development of the final version of *Shape of the Australian Curriculum: Arts* paper by early 2011. Writing of, and consultation on, the arts curriculum will occur during 2011.

Languages

Initial advice for languages was presented to a national forum of key stakeholders in October 2010. This is informing the development of the *Shape of the Australian Curriculum: Languages* paper, which is expected to be available for public consultation from January to March 2011. Analysis of the consultation feedback will inform the development of the final version of the *Shape of the Australian Curriculum: Languages*. Writing, consultation and publication of the languages curriculum is planned for 2011-2012.

2011-2013

Australian education ministers have agreed that subsequent development work will include a focus on health and physical education, information and communication technology, design and technology, economics, business, civics and citizenship.

Timelines and processes for this future work will be considered by education ministers in 2011.