

**NATIONAL CURRICULUM CONSULTATION
TRIALLING OF DRAFT K-10 CURRICULUM MATERIALS
(English, history, mathematics, science)**

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) is finalising the draft K-10 curriculum materials in English, mathematics, science and history for consultation between February and May 2010. The materials will include content descriptions, achievement standards, content elaborations and annotated work samples.

The process for consultation will include online surveys and stakeholder consultation forums conducted nationally and in each state and territory. In addition, there will be a limited 'trial' of the draft curriculum.

What is the scope and purpose of the trial?

The trial will be limited in scope and timing. It will be formally conducted during the consultation period February to May 2010.

The purpose is to test both the description and manageability of the draft curriculum. Feedback will be in the form of responses to the following broad questions:

- Do the draft content descriptions and achievement standards well represent what all young Australians should learn in these four curriculum areas?
- Are the content descriptions and achievement standards clear in relation to what should be taught and what students are expected to learn?
- How does the sequence and placement of content within the curriculum match with teachers' understandings of where students should be at any particular year?
- Is the content at each year level manageable and able to be taught in depth and within the time available?
- Is the digital layout easy to navigate? Does it provide a range of entry points and views?

How can schools participate in the trial?

Schools can participate either at one year level, for example Year 2; at a stage of schooling level, that is, Years K-2, 3-6/7, 7/8-10; or at a whole school level, that is, Years K-6/7, 7/8-10, or K-10.

Schools can participate in one or more of the learning areas.

Schools can participate in one or more of the following ways:

- by developing teaching programs (either on a term, semester or year basis),
- by teaching and assessing a slice of the developed program and collecting work samples
- by testing the functionality, accessibility and usefulness of the online curriculum.

What is the commitment?

All participating schools and teachers will be asked to provide formal feedback on the draft curriculum materials via an online survey.

In addition, depending on their agreed involvement, schools and teachers will provide ACARA with:

- a term-, semester- or year-long teaching program/s and up to two assessment tasks
- a set of annotated student work samples in relation to at least one assessment task.

How will schools be selected?

The process for selection is as follows:

1. Interested schools will complete an expression of interest (attached). In this expression of interest, schools will identify the scope of their proposed participation and their level of commitment.
2. Schools are invited to submit their expressions of interest to their relevant jurisdiction authority by 27 November 2009.
3. Authorities in each jurisdiction will coordinate a nomination process and submit a recommended list of schools to ACARA in early December 2009.
4. ACARA will confirm the final list of trial schools and notify them of their participation before the end of the school year.

State/territory authorities and ACARA will select schools to meet the following criteria:

- a range of school types based on size and location
- a range of school contexts based on student background and community factors
- a range of teacher experience from beginning to more experienced teachers
- coverage of learning areas across stages of schooling
- coverage across government, Catholic and independent schools.

What resources are available?

ACARA will provide some funding to participating schools to cover teacher relief and contract payments on the basis of the final committed agreement from each school.

ACARA managers and project officers will provide support to and maintain regular contact with state/territory and school contacts during the course of the trial.