

MEDIA RELEASE

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ACARA welcomes review of the Australian Curriculum

The Chair of the Board of the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA), Professor Barry McGaw, said today that he welcomed the review of the Australian Curriculum that Minister Pyne has initiated.

He said that he believed the Authority had used a rigorous, national process and had produced a high quality curriculum. Each learning area was developed over a 2-3 year period by subject matter experts across the country. The process included input and review by state and territory education bodies, along with teacher and industry professional associations. He said that an independent review of the process and the products could provide a helpful, additional perspective.

Professor McGaw said that the development of the Australian Curriculum had also been shaped by careful analyses of the curricula in high performing countries. "The Australian Curriculum is setting higher standards across the country, perhaps most notably in mathematics and science at the primary school level," Professor McGaw said.

Professor McGaw said, "Implementation of the new Australian Curriculum to year 10 in the first four subjects, English, mathematics, science and history, began in the ACT in 2011. Five other jurisdictions followed in 2012 and Victoria in 2013. With NSW introducing these subjects this year, implementation will be underway across the whole country."

"Development of the curricula from Foundation to year 10 for the other learning areas has been completed but the final ones have not yet been endorsed by the council of education ministers. The Council, not ACARA, is the governing body that has the final say on whether the curriculum is ready for states and territories to implement."

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