

11 May 2010

Dear Principal

### **Consultation on the draft Senior Secondary Years' Australian Curriculum**

I write to provide a further update on the consultations on the draft Australian Curriculum which are being undertaken by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA).

On 14 May 2010, the draft content for the senior secondary years' Australian Curriculum in English, mathematics, science, and history will be released for public consultation until 30 July 2010. As with the draft K-10 curriculum, the draft senior secondary curriculum content will be published online at the Australian Curriculum consultation portal at [www.australiancurriculum.edu.au](http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au).

At this stage, only the draft curriculum content will be available for consultation. Given the different purposes and uses of existing achievement standards in states and territories, it will take longer to develop the Australian Curriculum senior secondary achievement standards.

Development of the achievement standards will occur through 2010, ahead of consultation in early 2011. The final achievement standards will be available to accompany the curriculum content for implementation. Timelines for implementation of the senior secondary curriculum have yet to be determined by Ministers.

Resources to assist consultation, including information sheets and frequently asked questions, can be accessed from the consultation portal and on the ACARA website at [www.acara.edu.au](http://www.acara.edu.au). As with the K-10 consultation portal, feedback on the senior secondary years' curriculum can be provided directly online.

### **Extension of consultation period for the draft K-10 Australian Curriculum**

Consultation on the draft K-10 Australian Curriculum has been extended one week until 30 May 2010. After this date, the draft K-10 curriculum will still be available to view along with the draft senior secondary curriculum.

If you have registered your details to provide feedback on the draft K-10 Australian Curriculum they can be used to view and comment on the draft senior secondary years' curriculum.

### **How ACARA will use your feedback**

As with K-10 consultation, ACARA is working with an independent research company to collect and analyse the senior secondary curriculum consultation data. ACARA will refine the draft curriculum in response to all the feedback from national consultation, and will publish a final version of the senior secondary Australian Curriculum content in English, mathematics, science and history in the last quarter of 2010.

I encourage you, your staff and school community to take part in the consultation period, so that we can produce a final curriculum that reflects broad agreement on what should be taught in senior secondary English, mathematics, science and history.

To assist you in communicating with your staff, parents and school community members about the release of the draft senior years' curriculum content, I have included two versions of some text (below) that you may wish to use and/or adapt.

ACARA will continue to work in partnership with the state and territory curriculum and school authorities to communicate information about developments in the Australian Curriculum. For further information, I encourage you to contact your relevant education authority in the first instance.

ACARA looks forward to your participation in the consultation on the draft senior years' curriculum for English, mathematics, science and history.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Hill', written in a cursive style.

Dr Peter Hill  
Chief Executive Officer

**Website or newsletter – suggested text 1:**

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) will release draft senior secondary years' Australian Curriculum content in English, mathematics, science and history for national consultation from 14 May 2010 until 30 July 2010.

Curriculum content will be presented for 14 courses:

- English - 4 courses
- Mathematics - 4 courses
- Science - 4 courses
- History - 2 courses

Each course contains units of nominally 50-60 hours duration with four units studied over a two year period.

At this stage, only the draft curriculum content will be available for consultation. Given the different purposes and uses of existing achievement standards in states and territories, it will take longer to develop the Australian Curriculum senior secondary achievement standards.

Development of the achievement standards will occur through 2010, ahead of consultation in early 2011. The final achievement standards will be available to accompany the curriculum content for implementation. Timelines for implementation of the senior secondary curriculum are currently being determined.

The draft curriculum content will be available through ACARA's consultation website – [www.australiancurriculum.edu.au](http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au) – for everyone to read, review, download, or print. ACARA encourages the involvement of all educators and the wider community during the consultation process to provide feedback on what senior secondary students should learn in English, mathematics, science and history.

ACARA is committed to listening to you and carefully considering your feedback in developing the Australian Curriculum – please take this opportunity to review the draft curriculum and provide feedback on Australia's first national curriculum.

**Note: extension of consultation period for the draft K-10 Australian Curriculum**

Consultation on the draft K-10 Australian Curriculum has been extended one week until 30 May 2010. After this date, the draft K-10 curriculum will still be available to view along with the draft senior secondary curriculum on the Australian Curriculum consultation portal.

If you have registered your details to provide feedback on the draft K-10 Australian Curriculum they can be used to view and comment on the draft senior secondary years' curriculum.

## **Website or newsletter – suggested text version 2:**

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) will release draft senior secondary years' Australian Curriculum content in English, mathematics, science and history for national consultation from 14 May 2010 until 30 July 2010.

The draft curriculum content will be available through ACARA's consultation website – [www.australiancurriculum.edu.au](http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au) – for everyone to read, review, download, or print. ACARA encourages the involvement of all educators and the wider community during the consultation process to provide feedback on what senior secondary students should learn in English, mathematics, science and history.

ACARA is committed to listening to you and carefully considering your feedback in developing the Australian Curriculum – please take the opportunity to review the draft curriculum and provide feedback on Australia's first national curriculum.

Consultation on the draft K-10 Australian Curriculum has been extended one week until 30 May 2010. After this date, the draft K-10 Curriculum will still be available to view along with the draft senior secondary curriculum on the Australian Curriculum consultation portal.

If you have registered your details to provide feedback on the draft K-10 Australian Curriculum they can be used to view and comment on the draft senior secondary years' curriculum.