



**Hon Peter Collier MLC
Minister for Education; Aboriginal Affairs; Electoral Affairs
Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council**

Our Ref: 34-31201

To all Western Australian School Principals

AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM IMPLEMENTATION IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

As the 2014 school year commences, I am writing to update you on the progress of the development and implementation of the Australian Curriculum.

As you may be aware, on 10 January 2014, the Australian Government announced a review of the Australian Curriculum.

Developing a robust curriculum for Western Australia's schools is a priority for the State Government.

I am pleased to confirm that in the 2013-14 Mid-Year Review, the State Government committed an additional \$6.9 million for the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) to adapt the Australian Curriculum to suit the specific needs of WA students. This means that, to date, \$20 million has been committed to allow the Authority to adopt and adapt the Australian Curriculum to suit the specific needs of Western Australia's schools.

Western Australia is already implementing Phase 1, K-10 subjects of the Australian Curriculum but the State Government agrees that all Phase 2 and 3 subjects developed so far need review to ensure that the knowledge, skills and understanding across all disciplines can be managed by teachers and students.

The State Government also agrees that it is necessary to review the disciplines of History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship and Economics and Business to ensure a coherent Humanities and Social Sciences learning area.

Western Australia will adopt and adapt the Australian Curriculum K-12 to suit the needs of our students and our schools. Western Australia has always been resolute in its position that we have the flexibility to determine the final syllabus on a year by year basis. Our position on that issue has not changed.

The funding provided to the Authority at Mid-Year Review will be used for further refinement and adjustment of the curriculum content and the development of resources and materials, including standards of achievement, to fully support all primary and secondary teachers. This work will commence during 2014 in consultation with teachers.

The value of bringing teachers together to develop a range of assessments, illustrate their use and effectiveness in the classroom, and, using the work their students produce to exemplify the standards, cannot be underestimated. In addition to these materials being made available to all teachers via the *Western Australian Curriculum and Assessment Outline* (<http://k10outline.scsa.wa.edu.au/>), those teachers who participate in the workshop activities take invaluable professional learning and knowledge back to their schools to share with their peers.

I strongly believe that this approach is critical to avoid a repeat of previous problematic experiences of new curriculum initiatives in Western Australia and that this approach has been proven through the successful implementation of Phase 1 of the Australian Curriculum in Western Australian schools.

Annotated work samples that exemplify the standards for each subject curriculum and year level will be developed to support teachers to make judgements about the allocation of A-E grades in line with the achievement standards.

The implementation timeline for Phases 2 and 3 is as follows:

- 2014 Tailoring the content to suit Western Australian schools, including identification of core and additional content.
- 2015 Development of Judging Standards to assist teachers to assess and grade student work.
- 2016 Curriculum available to schools for familiarisation.
- 2017 Full implementation, including teaching, assessing and reporting by schools will be in place with first reporting to parents by the end of Semester 1, 2017.

I am confident that the schedule of consultation and the development of support resources will build on teachers' current good practice, expertise and commitment to ensure a quality education for our students.

The *Western Australian Curriculum and Assessment Outline*, which already hosts the Phase 1 Australian Curriculum materials, will be the source of Kindergarten–Year 10 curriculum for all Western Australian students. It will provide comprehensive information that schools can use to plan student learning programs, assess student progress and report to parents.

I wish you and your staff the very best for the 2014 school year.

Kind regards



Hon Peter Collier MLC
MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

28 JAN 2014