

# Improving the Australian Curriculum

ACARA is seeking to improve the learning of all young Australians through the development of a national curriculum.

Work is underway to improve the Australian Curriculum addressing themes endorsed by the Education Council. These themes are: **uncrowding the curriculum**; **rebalancing the curriculum**; **improving accessibility for students with disability**; and **parental engagement**.

## WHAT IS ACARA DOING ABOUT...

### ... uncrowding the Curriculum?

- ▶ **focusing on primary schools**, undertaking **workshops** with practising primary teachers to identify **key issues** and areas in the Australian Curriculum for possible reduction
- ▶ **refining** and **reducing** the number of content descriptions and achievement standards
- ▶ **redesigning** humanities and social sciences by incorporating history, geography, civics and citizenship, and economics and business into one learning area curriculum for the primary years
- ▶ ensuring the general capabilities and cross-curriculum priorities are appropriately **tagged** to learning areas
- ▶ **targeted consultation** with key stakeholders (state and territory curriculum and school authorities; peak national bodies including the Australian Primary Principals Association and subject professional associations) and academics



### *By when?*

- Targeted consultation in May 2015.
- Changes to the Australian Curriculum presented to ACARA Board in June 2015.
- Following Board approval, changes presented to the Education Council.
- Amended Australian Curriculum published on the Australian Curriculum website by end of December 2015.

## WHAT IS ACARA DOING ABOUT...

### ... rebalancing the Australian Curriculum?

- ▶ **conducting a forum** involving experts in phonics and phonemic awareness to provide advice for strengthening phonics and phonemic awareness in the Australian Curriculum: English
- ▶ **drafting** changes to the English curriculum

#### *By when?*

- Consultation until end of May 2015.
- Changes to the Australian Curriculum presented to ACARA Board in June 2015.
- Following Board approval, changes presented to the Education Council.
- Changes made to the Australian Curriculum: English and published on the Australian Curriculum website by end of 2015.



### ...improving accessibility for students with disability?

- ▶ **consulting** with key stakeholders (state and territory curriculum and school authorities, and relevant national groups), academics and relevant legal agencies to determine the best approach to improve accessibility for students with disability
- ▶ **developing** proposals for improving accessibility for students with disability for ACARA Board consideration

#### *By when?*

- Proposals to improve accessibility for students with disability for approval by the ACARA Board in June 2015.
- Materials to improve accessibility for students with disability published on the Australian Curriculum website by end of June 2016.

### ...improving parental engagement with the Australian Curriculum?

- ▶ **consulting** with some organisations who have completed similar work and **engaging** with other key stakeholders
- ▶ **developing** proposals to improve parent engagement followed by the **development of materials** to improve parent engagement for the Australian Curriculum website

#### *By when?*

- Proposals to improve parental engagement with the Australian Curriculum for approval by the ACARA Board by end of June 2015.
- Materials to improve parental engagement published on the Australian Curriculum website by end of December 2015.