



Our ref: ER0208 - 2014/25759

To the Principal  
All Schools

Dear Principal

### **SCHOOL CURRICULUM AND STANDARDS AUTHORITY TERM 3, 2014 UPDATE**

Welcome back to Term 3. We thought it timely to provide you with an update on the work the Authority is undertaking in preparation for 2015 and beyond. Many teachers have been involved in consultation and feedback processes throughout the year, and we would like to extend our thanks for their contribution and provide you with confirmation that much of that work will be finalised and available for schools this term.

#### **KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM GUIDELINES**

Following the consultation feedback process earlier this year, further refinements to the Kindergarten Curriculum Guidelines have been made and the final document will be published this term.

#### **AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM**

Phase 1 of the P-10 Australian Curriculum, which includes English, mathematics, science and history are currently being taught by most schools and will be fully implemented in Western Australia by the end of Semester 1, 2015. This includes teaching, assessing and reporting.

Work on the Judging Standards materials has continued throughout this year with annotated work samples for Phase 1 continuing to be uploaded.

The *Western Australian Curriculum and Assessment Outline* (Outline), which already hosts the Phase 1 Australian Curriculum materials, is the source of Kindergarten–Year 10 curriculum for all Western Australian students. It provides comprehensive information that schools can use to plan student learning programs, assess student progress and report to parents. All materials are accessible via the website: [Western Australian Curriculum and Assessment Outline](#).

As you are aware, the State Government has provided funding to the Authority to adapt the Phase 2 and 3 P-10 Australian Curriculum to suit the specific needs of Western Australian students. A letter to all schools from the Hon Peter Collier MLC, Minister for Education, on 28 January 2014, outlined the process and timelines for the development and implementation of Phases 2 and 3 of the P-10 Australian Curriculum for Western Australian schools. The Minister's letter can be accessed via our website at:

[http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/internet/ Documents/General/Letter to Principals regarding Australian Curriculum Implementation Jan 2014.pdf](http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/internet/Documents/General/Letter%20to%20Principals%20regarding%20Australian%20Curriculum%20Implementation%20Jan%202014.pdf)

Work is currently underway to review the disciplines of History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship and Economics and Business to ensure a complete Humanities and Social Sciences learning area. Consultation processes are also ongoing to refine the content in the Arts, Technologies and Health and Physical Education and develop year by year syllabuses.

ACARA has developed the P-10 Australian Curriculum for Chinese, French, Indonesian and Italian and the curricula have been made 'available for use, awaiting final endorsement' on the Australian Curriculum website. We advise that the P-10 Australian Curriculum for Languages as developed so far by ACARA, requires significant review before it can be implemented in Western Australian schools. This work will commence in the near future.

The Authority Board has requested that a comprehensive overview of the current provision of P-12 languages in Western Australia, both in and out of school settings, be prepared. The report will provide the Board with a sound basis to make informed decisions about the future development and provision of language education policy and curriculum in Western Australia. This is important given the future work required in relation to the development of P-10 Languages curriculum and to ensure manageable future implementation in schools.

### **CURRICULUM RESOURCES TO SUPPORT STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY AND ADDITIONAL NEEDS**

The School Curriculum and Standards Authority is committed to ensuring all students from Kindergarten to their final year of secondary schooling in Western Australia receive an education that is equitable and embraces diversity. The Authority is looking towards providing additional curriculum resources within the Outline to support the teaching of those students who are unable to access the P-10 Western Australian Curriculum.

In June, the Authority hosted a briefing on the Abilities Based Learning and Education Support (ABLES) curriculum resources and tools designed for teachers to support the teaching and learning of students with disability and additional needs. The ABLES curriculum resources have been collaboratively developed by the Victorian Department of Education, University of Melbourne and the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority and are underpinned by a strong evidence-base.

The purpose of the briefing was to begin the process of determining if the Victorian curriculum resources and the resources Western Australian education support teachers currently use can be adapted and developed into a complementary curriculum resource package for inclusion within the Outline. Feedback was very positive and we will be proceeding with this work over the next few months.

### **WESTERN AUSTRALIAN CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION (WACE) 2015-16**

When we last wrote to you in March 2014, it was to announce the release of the WACE 2015-16 materials via our website and the commencement of the consultation period for the draft *WACE Manual 2015-16*. We would like to thank all of those who provided feedback. Revisions are currently underway and the final document will be published on our website this Term.

During Term 2, 2014, a series of learning area webinars covering significant changes to the course content and process took place. Again, we would like to thank all of those who participated. Copies of the webinar presentations, speaking points and questions will be published on our website shortly.

The Authority is currently developing support materials for each of the new Year 11 and Year 12 ATAR, General, Foundation and Preliminary courses. Sample course outlines, sample assessment outlines and assessment tasks will also be published on our website later this year.

### **Online Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (OLNA)**

In preparation for the September 2014 OLNA, and in response to feedback from schools, the Authority has published an *OLNA Handbook*, which provides information on:

- demonstrating the minimum standard through OLNA
- administering the assessments
- using feedback to assist students.

The *OLNA Handbook* also provides information on policies, procedures and guidelines relevant for schools, teachers and other members of the education community.

The Authority has also published, to support teachers, the *OLNA Writing Guide*. The guide exemplifies writing where the OLNA standard has been demonstrated and also where it has not. We hope that you will agree that the *OLNA Writing Guide* provides valuable information for teachers to support students as they prepare to sit the September OLNA.

In addition, for those students who achieved a Category 1 for any of their March 2014 OLNA assessments, individual student diagnostic information will be provided to schools this week, which will also assist teachers supporting those students to meet the standard.

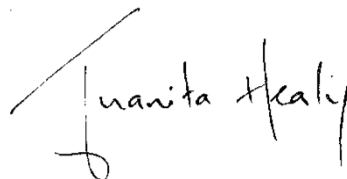
Both of these publications can be accessed via our website:  
[http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/internet/Senior\\_Secondary/OLNA](http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/internet/Senior_Secondary/OLNA) .

We acknowledge you are all embarking on a very busy Term 3, and trust it will be both enjoyable and productive. If you have any further enquiries you may contact us in writing at [info@scsa.wa.edu.au](mailto:info@scsa.wa.edu.au).

Yours sincerely



**PATRICK GARNETT**  
**CHAIR**



**JUANITA HEALY**  
**A/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

21 July 2014