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To the Principal
All Schools

Dear Principal

RELEASE OF THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT'S REVIEW OF THE AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM FINAL REPORT

Welcome back to Term 4. You may be aware that the Australian Government yesterday released the *Review of the Australian Curriculum Final Report*. This publication can be accessed via the link on the School Curriculum and Standards Authority's website: www.scsa.wa.edu.au.

The review was established by the Australian Government, and undertaken by Professor Ken Wiltshire AO and Dr Kevin Donnelly, to evaluate the robustness, independence and balance of the development of the Australian Curriculum.

In general, the *Review of the Australian Curriculum* found that the Australian Curriculum was supported and seen as a positive development in education, however, the Australian Curriculum could be improved and strengthened.

The Review of the Australian Curriculum has made 30 key recommendations. There are also a number of more specific recommendations made against each learning area, such as maths, science, English and history.

The Australian Government has also released an Initial Australian Government Response as a starting point for discussions with State and Territory Ministers and other key stakeholders on how to strengthen and refine the Australian Curriculum based upon the following five key themes of the Review:

- addressing the identified concerns of an overcrowded curriculum;
- improving parental engagement around the curriculum;
- improving accessibility for all students – particularly those with disability;
- rebalancing the curriculum – ensuring that a range of views are taught; and
- reviewing the governance of the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) – ensuring its members have the highest expertise and that it operates independently of government.

We are pleased to see that many of the recommendations of the *Review of the Australian Curriculum Final Report* supports the position that the Western Australian Government has adopted on the recommendation of the Board of the School Curriculum and Standards Authority.

The Review report acknowledges the leading work that Western Australia has done in making the curriculum appropriate for students and teachers.

The Western Australian Government has so far committed approximately 20 million dollars for the development of the *Western Australian Curriculum and Assessment Outline* and to make the curriculum appropriate for Western Australian students and teachers. This work is being completed in close and careful collaboration between teachers and the School Curriculum and Standards Authority.

The School Curriculum and Standards Authority will be providing the Hon Peter Collier MLC, Minister for Education with a full briefing and a position paper in regard to the *Review of the Australian Curriculum Final Report* which he will consider prior to the meeting of Educational Council in December. The Hon Minister Christopher Pyne has indicated that at this meeting there will be conversation and consideration in relation to the 'where to next' of the Australian Curriculum.

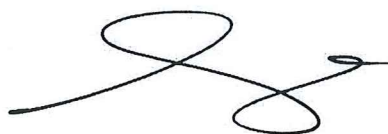
We would like to take this opportunity to reassure Western Australian parents, students and teachers that we are on the right path and that the Western Australian Government is fully supportive of the work that the Authority is undertaking in leading the development of Pre-primary to Year 12 curriculum.

We acknowledge you are all embarking on a very busy Term 4, 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.

Yours sincerely



PATRICK GARNETT
CHAIR



ALLAN BLAGAICH
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

13 October 2014