



Our Ref: ER0208-03 – 2017/3335

To the Principal  
All Schools

Dear Principal

**2017 AREAS OF EMPHASIS – PRE-PRIMARY TO YEAR 12 CURRICULUM,  
ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING**

Welcome back to the start of the 2017 school year. We trust that you and your staff have had a restful break and are looking forward to the year ahead.

The purpose of this letter is to signal areas of emphasis that the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) will be focusing on in 2017 which will support schools' implementation of the *Western Australian Curriculum and Assessment Outline* (the *Outline* – Pre-primary to Year 10) and the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE – Year 11 and 12).

These areas of emphasis build upon the comprehensive work schools and their teachers have completed, particularly over the past two years, to support the implementation of the *Outline* and the recent WACE reform.

***Western Australian Curriculum and Assessment Outline***

As you are aware, the Authority's *Pre-primary to Year 10: Teaching, Assessing and Reporting Policy* (<http://k10outline.scsa.wa.edu.au/home/policy/teaching-assessing-and-reporting-policy>) sets out the **mandated** minimum requirements for the implementation of the *Outline*. It is supported by the *Policy Standards for Pre-primary to Year 10: Teaching, Assessing and Reporting*.

As highlighted in the *Policy Standards*, the following implementation timelines are of particular importance for schools:

- full implementation of the Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS) and Health and Physical Education curriculum is expected to be in place in schools with the first reporting on student achievement to parents by the end of Semester 1, 2017
- full implementation of Technologies, The Arts and Languages curriculum is expected to be in place in schools with the first reporting on student achievement to parents by the end of Semester 1, 2018.

To support teachers, a comprehensive range of Pre-primary to Year 10 assessment resources is available. These include Judging Standards (achievement standards, assessment pointers and annotated work samples). We strongly encourage teachers to keep up-to-date with the release of these resources through their subscription to the Authority's *Kto10 Circular* (<http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/>).

To ensure that our early and middle childhood support is focused on meeting the practical needs of our primary colleagues, we are pleased to advise that we have recently appointed a number of primary teachers to our curriculum team. Our primary team members look forward to many conversations and collaborations with primary teachers.

During 2017, the Authority will continue to work with schools in the use of Brightpath and will pilot consensus moderation in Year 6 to Year 10 with a small group of schools. Both of these activities will focus on supporting teacher judgements.

### **Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE)**

The work of schools and their staff over the past two years to support the implementation of the WACE reform was tremendous, and at the end of 2016 resulted in 21 473 students receiving a WACE and 25 338 students receiving the Western Australian Statement of Student Achievement (WASSA). We sincerely thank you and your staff for your commitment to ensure that Western Australia's 2016 Year 12 student cohort was so well supported.

In 2017, to support schools in their consolidation of the WACE, the Authority will be:

- conducting **teacher/examiner forums** early in Term 1 to provide an opportunity for teachers to provide feedback and ask questions of examining panels about the 2016 ATAR course examinations
- hosting seminars/webinars for new and/or inexperienced teachers
- facilitating small group moderation seminars
- offering workshops with a focus on improving student performance
- conducting a mandatory **syllabus delivery audit** for Year 11 ATAR courses (required documents are to be uploaded by schools to the Authority's SIRS2 by 4.00 pm Friday, 24 February 2017)
- re-introducing a mandatory **consensus moderation** process for Year 12 courses (Weeks 7 to 9, Term 2) and for Year 11 courses (Weeks 2 to 4, Term 3)
- increasing **Year 11 and 12 grading reviews and moderation** and, in particular, with a focus on General courses. In cases where a grading review may identify concerns about a school's syllabus delivery and/or assessment practice the Authority will advise the Principal in writing of the actions required before the grades for the course are approved.

We trust that by using information from the syllabus delivery audit, grading reviews, consensus moderation and externally set tasks, the Authority will be able to provide accurate information to support Principals to ensure the effective delivery of all WACE courses.

We strongly encourage Principals to ensure that school policy documents for students who are in Year 11 and Year 12 in 2017 are consistent with information in the *WACE Manual 2017 – General Information for Senior Secondary Schooling* (<http://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/further-resources/wace-manual>). To assist in easy identification of changes or modifications to the *WACE Manual* new content is marked with a star and clarified content is marked with an exclamation point. Any re-publication of the *WACE Manual* throughout 2017 will be indicated with a dated banner on the front cover.

The Authority website and *11to12Circulars* (<http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/>) should be checked regularly for updated information about the WACE.

### **Connecting with schools**

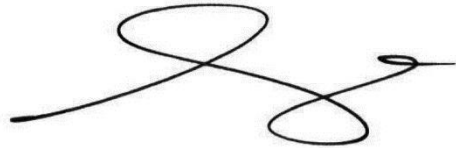
In closing, along with members of the Authority's executive team, we look forward to meeting with you and your school leadership team during Term 1, when we will be inviting you to attend our *2017 Roadshow Briefings* across the State. We will shortly be advising schools of the details. Hearing your feedback at these briefings is critical to ensure that the Authority's work remains responsive to the needs of our students and teaching colleagues.

We wish you and your staff a productive term and look forward to your continued support throughout the year.

Yours sincerely

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

**PATRICK GARNETT  
CHAIR**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allan Blagaich', written in a cursive style with a large loop.

**ALLAN BLAGAICH  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

30 January 2017