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Minister for Education; Aboriginal Affairs; Electoral Affairs
Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

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To all Western Australian school principals

UPDATE ON AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM IMPLEMENTATION IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA PRE-PRIMARY TO YEAR 10 (P-10)

Welcome back to the 2015 school year. Early in 2014 I wrote to update you on the progress of the development and implementation of the P-10 Australian Curriculum.

The *Western Australian Curriculum and Assessment Outline* (Outline), which already hosts the Phase 1 Australian Curriculum, 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.

As you are aware, the State Government has provided funding to the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) to adapt the P-10 Phase 2 and 3 Australian Curriculum to suit the specific needs of Western Australian students.

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 on-going to refine the content in the Arts, Technologies and Health and Physical Education and develop year by year syllabuses.

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. The Authority will commence this work in 2015.

You would also be aware that, following the release of the *Review of the Australian Curriculum Final Report*, Education Ministers discussed the report recommendations at the Education Council meeting in December 2014. ACARA will provide further advice to the Education Council early next year.

It was pleasing to note that the recommendations which relate to issues regarding the enormity of the curriculum, the standards in the curriculum and how the curriculum is graded, are in accord with what Western Australia had decided to do with the Outline.

The State Government remains committed to ensuring that full implementation of the P-10 curriculum for Western Australian schools will occur when we have completed the 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.

I am aware that some concern has been expressed regarding the current timeline for full implementation along with a preference to extend the date by which full implementation and reporting on Phase 2 and 3, by schools, is required.

It is Western Australia's responsibility to implement timelines and pathways for its schools, and therefore, any advice provided by ACARA as a consequence of the Review of the Australian Curriculum, will be considered by Western Australia as part of its syllabus review cycle.

Given the feedback that I have received from schools in relation to the implementation process, I am pleased to confirm the following revised timeline, which provides schools with a longer period to familiarise themselves with The Arts, Technologies and Languages P-10 curriculum.

Revised timeline – The Arts, Technologies and Languages

- 2015 - 16 The School Curriculum and Standards Authority developing the Judging Standards (assessment resource materials) to assist teachers to assess and grade student work and developing syllabus resource materials to assist teachers implement the syllabuses.
- 2016 The Arts and Technologies Curriculum available to schools for familiarisation at the beginning of Semester 1, 2016.

 The Languages Curriculum available to schools for familiarisation at the beginning of Semester 2, 2016.
- 2018 Full implementation, including teaching, assessing and reporting by schools will be in place with reporting to parents by the end of Semester 1, 2018.

Please note that there is no proposed change to the already published timeline for Humanities and Social Sciences and Health and Physical Education. Full implementation, including teaching, assessing and reporting by schools for these two learning areas will be in place with reporting to parents by the end of Semester 1, 2017.

I wish you and your staff the very best for the 2015 school year.

Kind regards



Hon Peter Collier MLC
MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

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