



AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT PRIMARY PRINCIPALS ASSOCIATION

'Championing the Cause of Primary Education in Government Schools'

Position Paper: Australian Curriculum June 2011

AGPPA Position:

AGPPA supports a nationwide approach to an Australian Curriculum from Kindergarten to Year 12. It is vital that an Australian Curriculum is adequately resourced for successful implementation.

Background:

- Historically, implementation of Australia-wide curriculum reforms has faltered due to political interference, inadequate resourcing and ill-conceived implementation plans.
- A piecemeal approach to curriculum development has generally been accepted by Australian education authorities in the past.
- AGPPA, along with the Australian Secondary Principals' Association (ASPA) and the Australian Primary Principals' Association (APPA), has long supported the notion of a national curriculum.
- The Australian Curriculum must meet the learning needs of all students.
- AGPPA has consistently expressed concerns about the 'crowded curriculum' and recommends that this be a consideration in implementing the Australian Curriculum.
- AGPPA has also expressed concerns about the lack of overall rationale for the Australian Curriculum and clear direction about core curriculum areas.
- Specific and additional resources must be provided to meet the learning of high need students

AGPPA Position – Supporting Statements:

- A consistent Australian Curriculum should define content, assessment and reporting.
- Common work samples and support materials need to be provided online, developed in a collaborative and pedagogically sound process, by and with input from practising teachers.
- An Australian Curriculum must be sufficiently flexible to cater for local school context.
- A balanced curriculum for all students is essential.
- An Australian Curriculum must appropriately cater for students with disabilities.
- Student learning needs must determine delivery of the curriculum.
- The integration of ICT across the Australian Curriculum is essential.
- Adequately resourcing the implementation of an Australian Curriculum is critical to its ultimate effectiveness.
- Timelines of implementation for the Australian Curriculum need to be carefully considered and monitored.

Implementation strategies:

- A co-ordinated national implementation strategy.
- Adequate Federal funded professional learning to implement the Australian Curriculum.
- A common national school starting age with common nomenclature for each year level.
- A four-term school year in all jurisdictions.
- An Australia-wide approach to defining student disabilities, including standardised resource allocations.
- Ongoing review and development by AGPPA, together with other professional associations.