

31 August 2011

**BOARD OF STUDIES NSW
ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS OF NSW
CATHOLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES**

MEMORANDUM TO PRINCIPALS

Dear Principal

AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM

On 9 August 2011 the Minister for Education, the Hon. Adrian Piccoli MP, announced that NSW schools would not be required to begin preparation for the implementation of the Australian Curriculum in 2012.

The NSW approach to curriculum implementation allows for the development and publication of syllabuses and support materials by the Board of Studies NSW. Systems and schools take responsibility for teachers' professional learning to introduce the new materials and help assure the quality of student learning that should occur as a result of new curriculum.

The Minister's announcement entails the NSW syllabuses and support materials for the Australian Curriculum in English, Mathematics, Science and History K-10 being developed through detailed and comprehensive consultation over the remainder of 2011 and 2012. This will allow for the professional learning aspects of implementation to occur in 2013.

The Minister's announcement also indicates that the schedule of implementation, including the order of implementation across subject areas, will be developed in consultation with all stakeholders, and will consider the availability of resources necessary for teachers' professional learning. The Board of Studies NSW will keep schools informed of developments in this regard as they occur. Updates are provided through the *Board Bulletin* at: <http://news.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au>

A joint memorandum issued to schools in December 2010 set out the NSW approach to various aspects of the Australian Curriculum. The draft NSW syllabuses for the Australian Curriculum embodying this approach can be viewed at: <http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/australian-curriculum/phase-1/k-10.html>

The draft NSW syllabuses for the Australian Curriculum:

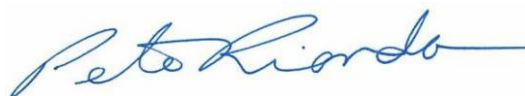
- present the Australian Curriculum Content Descriptions, with additional explication for teachers
- embed Australian Curriculum General Capabilities and Cross-Curriculum priorities within the content
- present the latest version of the Australian Curriculum Achievement Standards as Stage Statements in Secondary syllabuses and Foundation Statements in Primary syllabuses.

In NSW, teaching programs must be based on the Board of Studies NSW syllabuses. Once approved by the Board and the Minister, the Board can notify schools of formal arrangements for implementation of NSW syllabuses for the Australian Curriculum, as developed in consultation with stakeholders.

The Board of Studies NSW will continue to work closely with the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) toward achieving a high quality Australian Curriculum.



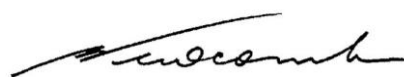
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