

Delivering Australia's First National Curriculum

Media Statement - 14th April 2008



[Julia Gillard](#)

Minister for Education, Julia Gillard today confirmed the membership of the National Curriculum Board, which will see a national curriculum be delivered within three years.

As promised, the new National Curriculum Board is comprised of representatives from each of the States and Territories, and three representatives from the Catholic and Independent sectors.

The Board will oversee the development of a rigorous, world-class national curriculum for all Australian students from kindergarten to Year 12, starting with the key learning areas of English, mathematics, the sciences and history.

The Board will draw together the best programs from each State and Territory into a single curriculum to ensure every child has access to the highest quality learning programs to lift achievement and drive up school retention rates.

The timetable will see:

- The National Curriculum Board hold its first meeting on 23 April 2008;
- The Board start consultations on the development of a national curriculum by mid this year;
- The secretariat and governance arrangements for the National Curriculum Board be established by 1 January 2009;
- A national curriculum for all Australian students from kindergarten to Year 12 be developed by 2010, starting with English, mathematics, the sciences and history, and underpinned by a renewed focus on literacy and numeracy; and
- A national curriculum publicly available and which can start to be delivered in all jurisdictions from January 2011.

The announcement follows last month's historic COAG agreement that for the first time set out a productivity and participation agenda that spans early childhood to adulthood.

Australians have been debating the merits of a national curriculum for the last 30 years. Until now, however, no Australian government has been able to produce a plan on how to deliver it.

Today, the Rudd Labor Government in co-operation with the State and Territories has announced such a plan, which will see a national curriculum being delivered within three years.

About 340,000 Australians move interstate each year, including 80,000 school-aged students. Working families who move their children interstate will be delighted with today's agreement.

It will contribute to creating a modern Australia, with a workforce that will benefit from being educated by a world-class national curriculum.

The COAG Working Group on the Productivity Agenda will work closely with the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA), and the Catholic and Independent schools sectors on the development of the national curriculum over the coming years.

Membership of the National Curriculum Board

Professor Barry McGaw Chair
Mr Tony Mackay Deputy Chair

Tom Alegounarias New South Wales representative
Mr John Firth Victorian representative
Mr Kim Bannikoff Queensland representative
Professor Bill Loudon Western Australian representative
Ms Helen Wildash South Australian representative
Mr David Hanlon Tasmanian representative
Ms Rita Henry Northern Territory representative
Ms Janet Davy Australian Capital Territory representative
Mr Garry LeDuff Non-government sector
Dr Brian Croke Non-government sector
Professor Marie Emmitt Non-government sector

<http://www.alp.org.au/media/0408/msed140.php>