

APPENDIX 4: THE HOBART DECLARATION ON SCHOOLING

PREAMBLE

The State, Territory and Commonwealth Ministers of Education met as the 60th Australian Education Council in Hobart, 14-16 April 1989, chaired by the Minister for Education in Tasmania, Hon. Peter Rae, MHA. Conscious that the schooling of Australia's children is the foundation on which to build our future as a nation, Council agreed to act jointly to assist Australian schools in meeting the challenges of our times. In reaching agreement to address the following areas of common concern, the State, Territory and Commonwealth Ministers of Education made an historic commitment to improving Australian Schooling within a framework of national collaboration.

COMMON AND AGREED NATIONAL GOALS FOR SCHOOLING IN AUSTRALIA

The national goals for Schooling will, for the first time, provide a framework for co-operation between Schools, States and Territories and the Commonwealth. The goals are intended to assist schools and systems to develop specific objectives and strategies, particularly in the areas of curriculum and assessment.

The agreed national goals for schooling include the following aims:

1. To provide an excellent education for all young people, being one which develops their talents and capacities to full potential, and is relevant to the social, cultural and economic needs of the nation.
2. To enable all students to achieve high standards of learning and to develop self-confidence, optimism, high self-esteem, respect for others, and achievement of personal excellence.
3. To promote equality of educational opportunities, and to provide for groups with special learning requirements.
4. To respond to the current and emerging economic and social needs of the nation, and to provide those skills which will allow students maximum flexibility and adaptability in their future employment and other aspects of life.
5. To provide a foundation for further education and training, in terms of knowledge and skills, respect for learning and positive attitudes for life-long education.
6. To develop in students:
 - the skills of English literacy, including skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing;
 - skills of numeracy, and other mathematical skills;
 - skills of analysis and problem-solving;
 - skills of information processing and computing;
 - an understanding of the role of science and technology in society, together with scientific and technological skills;
 - a knowledge and appreciation of Australia's historical and geographical context;
 - a knowledge of languages other than English;
 - an appreciation of and understanding of, and confidence to participate in, the creative arts;
 - an understanding of, and concern for, balanced development and the global environment; and

- a capacity to exercise judgement in matters of morality, ethics and social justice.

7. To develop knowledge, skills, attitudes and values which will enable students to participate as active and informed citizens in our democratic Australian society within an international context.

8. To provide students with an understanding and respect for our cultural heritage including the particular cultural background of Aboriginal and ethnic groups.

9. To provide for the physical development and personal health and fitness of students, and for the creative use of leisure time.

10. To provide appropriate career education and knowledge of the world of work, including an understanding of the nature and place of work in our society.

Providing a sound basis for a collaborative effort to enhance Australian Schooling, the agreed national goals will be reviewed from time to time, in response to the changing needs of Australian society.

ANNUAL NATIONAL REPORT ON SCHOOLING

The annual National Report on Schooling in Australia will be produced for the 1990 school year, marking the beginning of a process of national reporting to the Australian people.

The annual National Report on Schooling will monitor schools' achievements and their progress towards meeting the agreed national goals. It will also report on the school curriculum, participation and retention rates, student achievements and the application of financial resources in schools. The annual national report will increase public awareness of the performance of our schools as well as make schools more accountable to the Australian people.

In the history of Australian education there has never been a single document which informs the citizens of Australia about the nation's education systems and the performance of our schools.

The annual National Report will, for the first time, provide a true and comprehensive account of Australian schooling to the nation. The Australian Education Council (Council of Ministers) will co-ordinate its publication.