

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2013-2014

Agency - Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority

Department of Education Question No. ED0313_14

Senator Lines provided in writing.

Question

ACARA - National curriculum

1. Could you provide a table that compares and contrasts the processes and timelines of the consultation methods employed by ACARA in developing the national curriculum? 2. Details of timelines, details of numbers of submissions and from whom (categories – general community, teaching professionals, teaching representative organisations, university representatives, academics, international participants) 3. Can you provide a table indicating (by state) exactly what subjects so far developed have been implemented, in what years, in how many schools? 4. Can you please indicate the processes of review that are built into the roll out of the national curriculum?

Answer

ACARA has provided the following response.

1. Consultation methods

It is assumed that this question refers to the range of consultation methods applied within ACARA's curriculum development process. The current groups involved in this have the following membership:

- *F-12 Curriculum Reference Group* – one nominee each from: each state and territory, the National Catholic Education Commission, the Independent School Council of Australia, the Commonwealth Department of Education; and members of the ACARA Board as determined by the Board.
- *Advisory groups* – 8-12 members with particular expertise in the learning area or subject. Members are drawn from education and discipline academia, schools, peak national bodies, industry and school and curriculum authorities.
- *National Forum* – invitees are expert and representational including: up to five nominees from each state and territory; up to four representatives of professional teacher associations; up to six tertiary representatives (with discipline and education backgrounds); and other stakeholder experts as nominated by ACARA.
- *National Panel* – invitees are expert and representational, including: up to two education authority representatives from each state or territory; one representative from the Commonwealth Department of Education; representatives of relevant national professional teacher associations.
- *Online consultation* – any member of the public can provide feedback via online consultation.

Development of a learning area curriculum includes writing *and* consultation activities, which in total take between 2-3 years. The following table identifies the consultation activities only. It has been developed based on information drawn from the [Curriculum Development Process v6.0](#), with additional detail regarding timelines drawn from internal workflow documents.

| Method | Process | Timeline |
|--|---|---|
| Initial Advice paper consultation | F-12 Curriculum Reference Group* provision of strategic advice on the draft Initial Advice paper. | 2 weeks |
| | ACARA Board review and approval of the Initial Advice paper to be distributed to National Forum participants. | 2 weeks |
| | National Forum* conducted. | 1 day - papers distributed one week prior |
| | Consultation feedback from the forum analysed and key directions for redrafting established. | 3 weeks |
| Shaping paper consultation | Draft Shape paper reviewed and commented on by the learning area Advisory Group. | 1 week |
| | National Panel* meeting to collect feedback. | 2 weeks |
| | F-12 Curriculum Reference Group* provision of feedback on the draft Shape paper. | 2 weeks |
| | ACARA Board review and approval of the Draft Shape paper for consultation. | 2 weeks |
| | Draft Shape paper published for online consultation. | 10-12 weeks |
| | Consultation feedback analysed and a consultation report prepared with proposed actions. | 3 weeks |
| | ACARA Board review and approval of the final shape paper and consultation report for publication. | 2 weeks |
| Broad outline of curriculum aims, rationale and scope and sequence | Broad outline reviewed by the learning area advisory group. | 2 weeks |
| | Broad outline reviewed by the national panel. | 2 weeks |
| | Feedback analysed and the outline of the curriculum revised. | 2 weeks |
| Draft curriculum | Draft curriculum reviewed by the learning | 2 weeks |

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| | area advisory group. | |
| | Draft curriculum reviewed by the National Panel*. | 2 weeks |
| | ACARA Board review and approval of the draft curriculum for online consultation. | 2 weeks |
| | Published for online consultation. | 10-12 weeks |
| | Consultation feedback analysed and a consultation report prepared with proposed actions. | 4 weeks |
| | Consultation report reviewed by F-12 Curriculum Reference Group*. | 1 week |
| | ACARA Board review and approval of directions for revision. | 2 weeks |
| Trial schools/intensive engagement | Trial schools work with the draft curriculum and ACARA collection of work samples. | Concurrent with online consultation (10-12 weeks) |
| | Intensive engagement report prepared as part of consultation report. | 2 weeks |
| Draft curriculum revisions | Revised curriculum reviewed by the learning area Advisory Group. | 1 week |
| | Reviewed by the National Panel*. | 2 weeks |
| Revised draft curriculum | Uploaded to the website for viewing and comment. | |
| | Reviewed by state and territory authorities. | 4 weeks |
| | Reviewed by F-12 Curriculum Reference Group. | 2 weeks |
| Curriculum validation – focus on achievement standards | Achievement standards reviewed at two national meetings of teachers and some online collaboration. | 4 weeks |

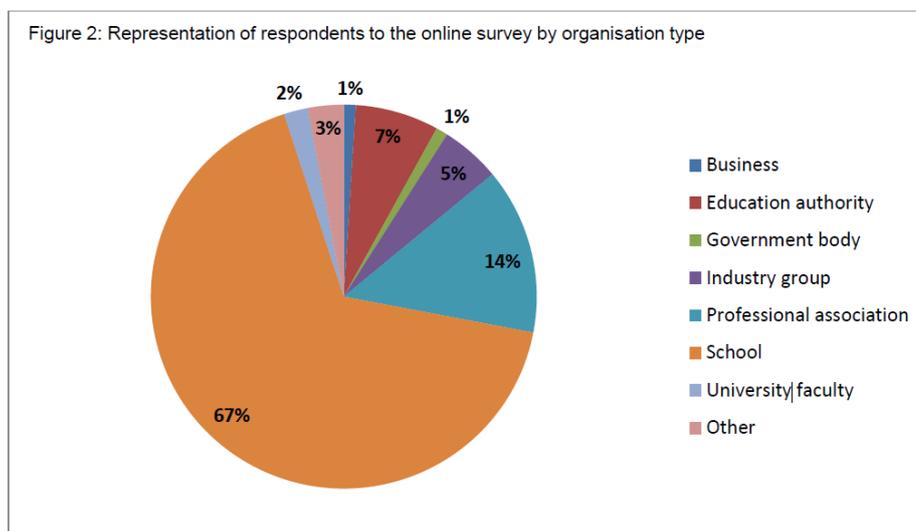
* Please note that this phased consultation process has been used to develop all learning areas, however, the advisory and working groups involved have changed over time to reflect refinement in the process.

2. Consultation data

Attachment 1 (*Learning area consultation data 2008-2013*) provides an overview of the timelines and number of submissions for each consultation activity conducted during learning area curriculum development.

For each learning area or subject, consultation reports detail the number or percentage distribution of respondents across groups and list those who made a written submission. These reports are available on the ACARA Consultation webpage, <http://www.acara.edu.au/curriculum/consultation.html>.

An example is provided below of the distribution of respondents engaged in the draft technologies curriculum consultation. It should be noted that this is based on the number of responses, and a single response from an industry group or professional association can represent many individuals.



3. Curriculum implementation

State and territory education authorities are responsible for implementation of the Australian Curriculum and for supporting schools and teachers. ACARA invites these authorities to share their implementation timelines via the ACARA website.

Attachment 2 provides an overview of the information provided by state and territory authorities to date regarding the implementation of the Australian Curriculum F-10 and senior secondary.

4. Processes of review

The monitoring and review process is outlined in **Attachment 3**.