CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT SENIOR SECONDARY AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide you and your staff with an update on the consultation activities on the draft senior secondary Australian curriculum in NSW during term 3.

The development of the Australian curriculum is being managed by the national body, the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA), with input and feedback from the states and territories.

On May 14 2010 ACARA released the draft senior secondary curriculum content for 14 courses in the learning areas of English, mathematics, science and history. Each course contains units of nominally 50-60 hours duration with four units over a two-year period. Draft content is described for each of the four units in a course and ACARA will develop achievement standards for each year of schooling. No content elaborations will be developed for the senior secondary curriculum.

ACARA has advised that once the senior secondary achievement standards have been developed in early 2011, the curriculum content and achievement standards will be subject to further national consultation.

The Board of Studies NSW continues to be responsible for advising the NSW Minister for Education and Training on the appropriateness of curriculum, including the Australian curriculum, for NSW schools and the structure and process of its implementation.

The Board of Studies NSW will conduct consultation meetings with teachers during term 3 to gather feedback about the draft senior secondary Australian curriculum content for English, mathematics, science and history. Information will be available on the Board of Studies website at the beginning of term 3.

Formal assessment and credentialing processes such as the School Certificate and the Higher School Certificate are not part of the Australian curriculum and remain the responsibility of NSW and the Board of Studies NSW.

Timelines for implementation of the senior secondary Australian curriculum have not yet been determined. The Board of Studies NSW has advised that all schools should continue to use the existing NSW K-12 syllabuses in 2011.
Education sectors are working closely with principals, teachers and with the Board of Studies NSW to ensure that the Australian curriculum enhances the already high standard of curriculum in NSW and that its implementation is well supported.

Schools are encouraged to keep abreast of the development of the Australian curriculum and to participate in the upcoming consultation processes.

Yours sincerely

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