



The Hon Adrian Piccoli MP

Minister for Education

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW TO DELAY IMPLEMENTATION OF AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM

The Minister for Education Adrian Piccoli today announced a change to the timeframe for NSW schools to implement the Australian curriculum in English, Mathematics, Science and History for Kindergarten to Year 10.

“The NSW Government is delaying the implementation of the Australian curriculum. We are committed to the Australian curriculum but we will not compromise on quality,” said Minister Piccoli.

“Delivering a quality education means more than having the documents ready. Teachers must have time to engage with new syllabuses, to evaluate them and to prepare – there is no point introducing the new curriculum if our teachers are not given the resources necessary to deliver it.

“The NSW Government and the Board of Studies are committed to close consultation with teachers and schools. I have listened to the feedback on the Australian curriculum from teachers and it is clear that more time is needed.

“When we introduce new curriculum in NSW we allow time for schools to have a year for thorough planning and a second year to introduce the curriculum into our classrooms. This results in quality education for the students of NSW.

“Teachers and schools need to know exactly what will be asked of them in the next few years, so that they can think ahead and continue to provide the high standards of education we are used to in NSW.

“At the July meeting of MCEECDYA the Commonwealth failed to commit any funds to the professional development of teachers required to implement the Australian curriculum. Given the time required to make the implementation a success we have no alternative but to defer the introduction in the interests of the teachers and students of NSW,” Minister Piccoli said.

This means that NSW schools would not be required to begin the planning phase for the Australian curriculum until 2013, with the curriculum moving to the classroom teaching phase from 2014.

“We will continue to work on clarifying and resolving issues with the Australian curriculum,” Mr Piccoli said.

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