



Australian Curriculum

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The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) is an independent authority responsible for the development of national curriculum. Individual States and Territories, however are responsible for determining the implementation of the curriculum at a system level.

In Queensland, the Queensland Studies Authority (QSA) provides advice to DETE about how this implementation should occur. DETE is then responsible for ensuring that the roll-out of the new curriculum meets the requirements and complies with the overall implementation schedule (see next page). The Queensland Studies Authority will become the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority from 1 July 2014.

Australian Curriculum explained

The Australian Curriculum is comprised of three elements:

1. general capabilities
2. cross-curriculum priorities
3. learning areas.

The general capabilities

These are literacy, numeracy, information and communication technology (ICT) competence, critical and creative thinking, personal and social competence, ethical behaviour and intercultural understanding.

The general capabilities are to be incorporated into all learning areas. A learning continuum has been developed for the end of years 2, 6 and 10, along with illustrative examples across learning areas at different stages of schooling. The learning continuum appears in the *General Capabilities in the Australian Curriculum* document and in each of the specific learning area curriculum documents.

Teachers are expected to teach and assess general capabilities to the extent that they are incorporated within each learning area.

Cross-curriculum priorities

Incorporated within each of the four key subjects and the seven general capabilities, are the three cross-curriculum priorities.

Students learn about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and culture, Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia and sustainability.

State and territory school authorities will determine whether and how student learning of the general capabilities will be further assessed and reported. Queensland Studies Authority has no current plan to assess and report on these seven general capabilities.

Australian Curriculum learning areas

Phases one to three of the Australian Curriculum in prep to year 10 include the following learning areas:

- english
- mathematics
- science
- humanities and social science (history, geography, civics and citizenship and economics and business)
- the arts (comprising dance, drama, media arts, music and visual arts)
- languages
- health and physical education
- technologies (ICT and design and technology).

The QTU has representatives on a number of QSA Learning Area Reference Committees (LARCs) as well as a representative on the QSA Governing Body, however this representation will not continue when the QSA becomes the QCAA. The QTU opposes the removal of union, parent and teacher representatives from the governing body.

Senior secondary courses

Consultation continues regarding the staged implementation of the 16 senior secondary Australian Curriculum courses. Queensland is yet to determine a date for implementation.

- four English courses (essential English, English, English as an additional language or dialect EALD, literature)
- four mathematics courses (essential mathematics, general mathematics, mathematical methods and specialist mathematics)
- four science courses (biology, chemistry, earth science, and physics)
- two history courses (modern history and ancient history).
- geography
- languages

DETE implementation schedule

Schools have commenced implementation of all Phase one Australian Curriculum learning areas/subjects in Prep to Year 10.

For the remaining Australian Curriculum, the EQ implementation schedule provides time for teachers to become familiar with each new curriculum and for schools to plan staffing and curriculum delivery.

It is recommended that in 2015 no more than two new P-10 learning areas are implemented simultaneously by any one teacher. (This may involve more than two new subjects within a learning area simultaneously by any one teacher.

EQ advice states that Principals should be mindful of school capacity and teacher workload when deciding on familiarisation time for Health and Physical Education, The Arts and Technologies.

State-wide support for implementation will be available according to the implementation schedule. Schools wanting to commence earlier should seek regional approval.

Any decision to introduce curriculum earlier than the implementation schedule permits should be made at the school’s local consultative committee or other consultative mechanism, as the LCC is the appropriate forum to consider whole school curriculum initiatives that have the potential to increase teacher and school leader workload.

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Geography Humanities learning area	<i>Implement</i> <i>Familiarise Semester 2, 2013</i>			
Health and Physical Education	<i>Familiarise</i>	<i>Familiarise or Implement</i>	Implement	
Civics and Citizenship (from Year 3) Humanities and Social Sciences learning area	<i>Familiarise</i>	Implement		
Economics and Business (from Year 5) Humanities and Social Sciences learning area	<i>Familiarise</i>	Implement		
Languages	<i>Familiarise</i>	Implement with language teacher		
The Arts (subjects: Dance, Drama, Media Arts, Music, Visual Arts)	<i>Familiarise</i>	<i>Familiarise or Implement</i>	Implement	
Technologies (subjects: Design and Technologies, Digital Technologies)	<i>Familiarise</i>	<i>Familiarise or Implement</i>	Implement	

All F (Prep) – 10 Australian Curriculum implemented

Providing the humanities curriculum in 2014

In 2014 state schools will continue to implement Australian Curriculum: History and commence implementation of Australian Curriculum: Geography in P-10. The Queensland Studies Authority is developing advice to support schools implementing the remaining SOSE content in 2014, either as a stand-alone unit or as a unit within Australian Curriculum: History or Geography.

Further references

Policy statement: EQ implementation of phases 2 & 3 Australian Curriculum F (Prep) – 10

<http://education.qld.gov.au/curriculum/framework/p-12/docs/policy-implementation.pdf>

EQ advice on recommended curriculum time allocations

<http://education.qld.gov.au/curriculum/framework/p-12/docs/time-allocations.pdf>

QSA Learning P-12

<http://www.qsa.qld.edu.au>

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ACARA www.acara.edu.au/home_page.html

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