Welcome to the first AISSA Principals’ Digest for 2015. The purpose of these Digests is to provide brief updates on developments relating to the Australian Curriculum relevant to our schools.

AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM

Introduction

In March 2015 the ACARA Curriculum Directors Group was provided with the following information regarding the Australian Curriculum.

Responding to the Review of the Australian Curriculum

ACARA has been directed to concentrate on the following themes arising from The Australian Government’s response to the Review of the Australian Curriculum:

1. Fixing the overcrowded curriculum
2. Making it easier for parents to engage with the curriculum
3. Improving access for all students
4. Rebalancing the curriculum

Revised curriculum documents for each of the Learning Areas with draft changes have been developed by ACARA as one of an agreed set of actions endorsed by all Australian Education Ministers in March 2015 in response to the Review of the Australian Curriculum (the review). These draft changes relate to two of the themes agreed to by the Education Council; resolving the overcrowded primary curriculum and rebalancing the curriculum.

The AISSA will consult with member schools and submit feedback on the draft changes.

Humanities and Social Sciences Landing Page

The Australian Curriculum: Civics and Citizenship Years 3-10 and the Australian Curriculum: Economics and Business Years 5-10 are available on the Australian Curriculum website labelled ‘Available for use; awaiting final endorsement’.

Work is underway to develop a consolidated primary humanities and social sciences learning area with: subject knowledge and understanding content descriptions included as sub-stands; the development of a single set of content descriptions for the skills at each year level and a single learning area achievement standard for each year. Consultation on these draft reductions will occur with state and territory curriculum and school authorities; key stakeholders and practising teachers, 17 April to 15 May. Following consultation the revised draft reductions will be considered by the ACARA Board on 25 June before being forwarded to the Education Council for endorsement.

The Arts

Australian Curriculum: The Arts F-10 is available on the Australian Curriculum website, labelled ‘Available for use; awaiting final endorsement’.
Work is underway to identify opportunities to reduce the volume of content descriptions and to draft a single achievement standard for the Arts, as an alternative to the subject-specific achievement standards. Consultation on these draft reductions will occur with state and territory curriculum and school authorities; key stakeholders and practising teachers, 17 April to 15 May. Following consultation the revised draft reductions will be considered by the ACARA Board on 25 June before being forwarded to the Education Council for endorsement.

Languages

The Australian Curriculum (F-10) for Arabic, Chinese, French, Indonesian, Japanese and Italian is published on the Australian Curriculum website as ‘Available for use; awaiting final endorsement’.

Health and Physical Education

The Australian Curriculum: Health and Physical Education Foundation to Year 10 is available on the Australian Curriculum website, labelled ‘Available for use; awaiting final endorsement’.

Work is underway to identify opportunities to reduce the volume of content descriptions. Consultation on these draft reductions will occur with state and territory curriculum and school authorities; key stakeholders and practising teachers, 17 April to 15 May. Following consultation the revised draft reductions will be considered by the ACARA Board on 25 June before being forwarded to the Education Council for endorsement.

Technologies

The Australian Curriculum: Technologies Foundation to Year 10 is available on the Australian Curriculum website labelled ‘Available for use; awaiting final endorsement’.

Work is underway to identify opportunities to reduce the volume of content descriptions and to draft a single achievement standard for Technologies, as an alternative to the subject-specific standards. Consultation on these draft reductions will occur with state and territory curriculum and school authorities; key stakeholders and practising teachers, 17 April to 15 May. Following consultation the revised draft reductions will be considered by the ACARA Board on 25 June before being forwarded to the Education Council for endorsement.

Work Studies

The Australian Curriculum: Work Studies is available on the Australian Curriculum website labelled ‘Available for use; awaiting final endorsement’.

The filming of illustrations of practice from pilot schools has commenced. Two illustrations of practice from schools in South Australia have been completed. There are three other illustrations which are in the planning stage in Queensland and Victorian schools.

The portfolio to illustrate the achievement standards for each year level is being prepared for annotations for publication.

General Capabilities

Work is underway to streamline the presentation of the general capabilities on the Australian Curriculum website.
Cross Curriculum Priorities

Work is underway to streamline the presentation of the cross-curriculum priorities on the Australian Curriculum website.

Managing the Primary Curriculum

The set of 20 illustrations of Primary Curriculum Management videos is now available on the Australian Curriculum website. The project shows how leaders are managing the primary curriculum in their schools.

Senior Secondary

Integration of content for English, mathematics, science and history subjects into senior secondary has commenced in all states and territories and has been completed in ACT and WA. No state or territory is planning to use the achievement standards as developed. Implementation of courses incorporating Australian Curriculum content will be over two years in most jurisdictions with Year 11 courses implemented in the first year and Year 12 courses the following year. Implementation commenced in 2014 in ACT with the voluntary piloting of courses. Implementation will commence in 2015 in WA, and 2016 in Victoria, SA, NT and Tasmania. The timeline for implementation is yet to be determined in NSW and Queensland.