

## SIXTH MCEECDYA MEETING

15 October 2010, Canberra

### COMMUNIQUÉ

The Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs met today in Canberra. The Council had a productive meeting which advanced a number of major issues in the national education reforms.

Today ministers agreed to enhancements being made to the My School website by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA). Available from December, the enhanced website will provide an expanded set of information about each school, including additional functions to improve usability and to protect published data from misuse. New features will include reporting of school financial information and of student progress in NAPLAN from 2008 to 2010.

ACARA has worked closely with the education sector on the new features of the My School website, in particular through the My School Working Group established by the former education minister, The Hon Julia Gillard MP, to provide advice to ACARA on possible enhancements to the website.

ACARA also provided ministers with a report on progress towards finalisation of the K-10 Australian Curriculum for English, mathematics, science and history. The draft curriculum content has been subject to extensive national consultation and revision. Feedback was received through a variety of sources including ACARA's public consultation website over March to May, formal written submissions, public information sessions, and national, State and Territory forums and workshops. Additionally, the draft curriculum content has been trialled in 150 schools across the country.

Following further consultation with education authorities and stakeholders, ACARA will now finalise the content of the K-10 Australian Curriculum for Ministers to consider for approval and release in December. Ministers re-affirmed their commitment to achieve substantial implementation of the K-10 Australian Curriculum in English, mathematics, science and history by the end of 2013, subject to there being a three year implementation period to commence from when the K-10 Australian Curriculum (content, standards and support materials) becomes available.

Ministers received a progress report on the implementation of the National Quality Agenda for early childhood education and care. A milestone has been achieved with the passage of the Education and Care Services National Law Bill through the Victorian Parliament on 5 October. All other States and Territories are expected to introduce legislation over the next 12 months to implement the National Quality Agenda.

In line with Ministers' ongoing commitment to thorough consultation around the first stage of these reforms, draft regulations are expected to be approved late this year. They will be subject to a period of further consultation with parents, staff and the sector.

Field-testing of the National Quality Standard (NQS) assessment and ratings process occurred in June, with 21 long day-care services from around Australia participating. The next phase of the assessment and rating process is underway involving around 200 services, comprising long day care, family day care and outside school hours care services(OSHC) and preschools.