

November 2010



Note to members about the K–10 Australian Curriculum: Mathematics

I write to provide members of AAMT and others with a summary of the current state of play in relation to the development, release and implementation of the *Australian Curriculum: Mathematics*. In brief, we understand that the curriculum documents in English, mathematics, science and history will be formally put to a meeting of ministers of education in December. Ministers will vote on their adoption as the ‘national curriculum’ for those learning areas.

The AAMT has been actively engaged in discussions with ACARA personnel and consultation about successive drafts of the mathematics curriculum since the beginning of the process. As Immediate Past President I have led this work to inform the development of the document (President Peter Sullivan was engaged by ACARA as part of the development team—consequently he has avoided any conflict of interest by not having involvement in the AAMT’s feedback).

AAMT has had good access to key ACARA personnel throughout, and has provided feedback in writing and at meetings on several occasions during 2009–10. I believe that AAMT’s views have been carefully and respectfully considered by those working on the curriculum, with many—but certainly not all—of our suggestions being taken up to help improve the document. Thanks to the many members who have given their time and provided their views throughout this process, through the AAMT and/or their local teacher association .

Those who have been involved through the AAMT have noted significant improvements over time. In retrospect it would seem that more public transparency through ACARA making one or more of the successive drafts widely available would have improved the process.

There have been suggestions in some quarters that the adoption of curriculums in these four subjects be delayed to enable further work to be done. It is the AAMT’s view that a delay is not necessary in the case of mathematics, and I sincerely hope that the *Australian Curriculum: Mathematics* is adopted at the December meeting. That will allow us all to get on to the next phase of implementation.

Each jurisdiction is responsible for implementation, and will tackle this in different ways. What is agreed is that there will be ‘substantial implementation by 2013’. AAMT has set out its intentions to support teachers in the Communiqué from the Ways Forward conference. We are determined to work with others to provide relevant professional learning and access to resources that teachers of mathematics want and need as they make the *Australian Curriculum: Mathematics* ‘come alive’ in their classrooms.

AAMT will continue to engage with ACARA on a range of matters including the further development of the senior years mathematics curriculum; how implementation of the K–10 curriculum is proceeding nationally and in the states and territories; and a range of issues in the assessment domain that are of vital interest to teachers of mathematics. Please be assured that the Association will keep you up to date with those developments, and that we will actively seek members’ input and advice during 2011 and beyond.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Judy Anderson'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'J' and 'A'.

Assoc. Prof. Judy Anderson
Immediate Past President, AAMT