



Improving Learning

Australian Council *for* Educational Research

Curriculum Review in Australia

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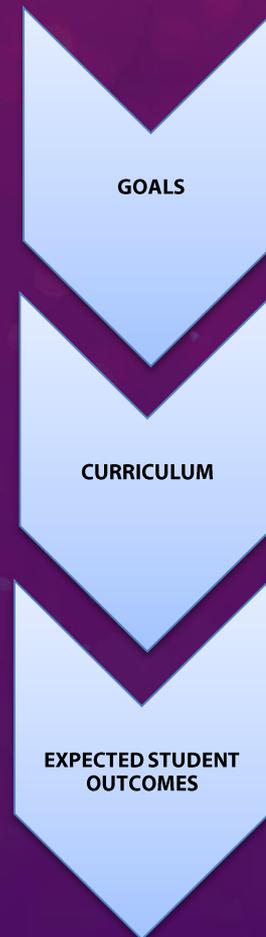
Australian context

- Australian Constitution gives responsibility for school education to the states, (not the Australian Government)
- Authority of curriculum is regulated at the state and territory level: all Ministers have to agree through the Education Council (Ministers Council)
- Over the last 30 years, there have been several attempts by Australian Governments, to develop a national approach to the curriculum
- The Australian Curriculum was reviewed in 2014



What is curriculum?

- Statements of what students should learn and be able to do
- Often contested
- One of the ways in which society reproduces itself and what is valued



- Statements of the goals of education.
- Statements of values and culture.

- Rationale, framework, structure, hours of instruction;
- Subjects, standards, competencies, scope and sequence of topics;
- Approach to teaching (*pedagogy*); sample lesson plans;
- Assessment process and activities; student work samples;

- What students understand, know and can do. Also expressed as *Skills, Knowledge and Attitudes*.

NATIONAL

STATE/TERRITORY

SCHOOL

National curriculum developed by ACARA and approved by all Ministers of Education

State/territory curriculum developed by relevant authority approved by Minister – consistent with national curriculum

School curriculum developed by the principal and staff and approved by governing body: a local interpretation of national/state curriculum

Curriculum as delivered by teachers, organised as a schema or syllabus

Curriculum as experienced by students. May be personalised

CAPACITY 1

Do teachers have the capacity to adapt the local version of the curriculum specifically for their students?

CAPACITY 2

Do the teachers have the capacity to tailor the curriculum in personalised learning

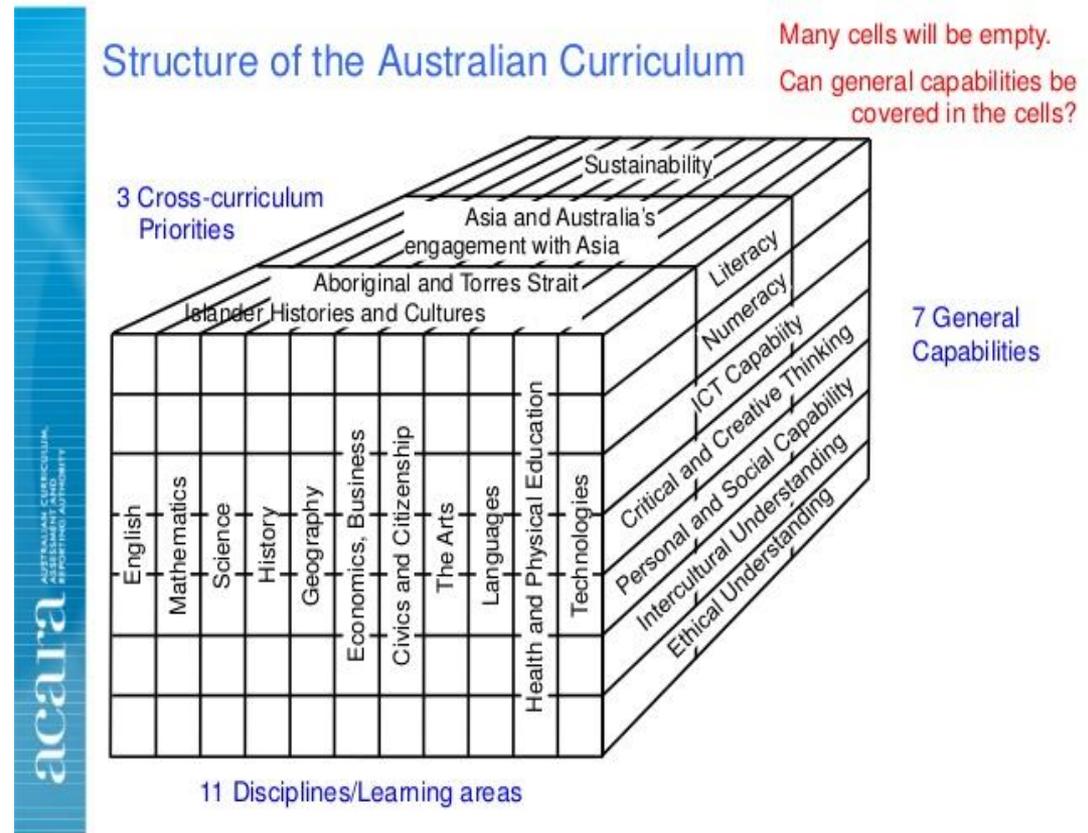
AUTONOMY

School exercises authority to adapt the curriculum

Australian Curriculum

Structure: Foundation - 10

- Discipline knowledge
- General Capabilities
- Cross-curriculum priorities



National Agency responsible:

Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA)

Elements of the Australian Curriculum

- Rationale
- Aims
- Organisational overview
- Content descriptions
- Achievement standards
- General capabilities
- Cross-curriculum priorities
- Work samples

Processes of curriculum development

Processes used

- Development of Shaping papers:
 - Overall Australian Curriculum (2009)
 - Each discipline area
 - Periods of consultation
 - Trialling of curriculum
 - Approval processes

Curriculum development: about 18 months

Consultation: about 10 weeks

Curriculum statements implicitly or explicitly favour various approaches to teaching and learning

Shaping papers look at:

- Educational goals for young Australians
- Key research
- Learning needs in the 21st century
- Leading national and international curriculum

Phasing in the Australian Curriculum: 2011 -2017

Australian Capital Territory: 2011

- Familiarisation with phase 1 Australian Curriculum subjects
- Whole school planning for the Australian Curriculum including professional development.
- Bridging document developed to transition ACT Curriculum Framework *Every Chance to Learn* to the Australian Curriculum

New South Wales: 2011

- The New South Wales Minister announced that the introduction of the Australian Curriculum will be delayed until 2014
- The Board of Studies continued state curriculum development
- The Board of Studies consulted with teachers about F-10 syllabus statements in English, Mathematics, Science and History
- Information sessions were held

Phasing in the Australian Curriculum: 2011 -2017

Australian Capital Territory

2012: Australian Curriculum commenced

- English and Science taught in primary schools
- English, Science, Mathematics and History taught in Years 7, 8, and 9
- Professional development for teachers
- Identification of 'Lead schools'

2013: K-10 Australian Curriculum – English, Science, History and Mathematics

Assessment based on standards and annotated work samples

New South Wales

2012: status quo

- Existing syllabuses were used

2013: familiarisation and planning

- Professional development of teachers commenced

2014: NSW K-10 syllabuses for Maths, Science and History incorporating the Australian Curriculum, are taught

2015-17 : Continued implementation

Phasing in the Australian Curriculum: 2011 -2017

Australian Capital Territory: 2014

- Commenced familiarisation of Geography and the Arts

2015

- Commence familiarization with Languages, Civics and Citizenship, Economics and Business, Technologies, Health and Physical Education and Work Studies

2016

Consolidate teaching of the Australian Curriculum

2017

Full implementation

Review of Australian Curriculum

- The Australian Curriculum (K to Year 12) was reviewed in 2014
- Review established by the Australian Government
- Led by two senior education researchers and supported by a Secretariat of 4 full-time staff, and casual staff as required
- Involved review of curriculum documents by specialists
- Public submissions prepared by key stakeholders
- Panel meetings and stakeholder consultations
- Interim report and
- Final report

Nature of the public debate

- Ongoing
- Timelines
- Extent of consultations
- Going too quickly
- Not going quickly enough
- Place of religion (Judeo-Christian)
- Place of cross-curriculum priorities
- Extent of discipline knowledge (potential 'over crowding')
- Teacher preparation and ongoing professional learning
- Role of the school principal

Purpose of the review

- Evaluate the development and implementation of the Australian Curriculum
- Consider the robustness, independence and balance of the Australian Curriculum including:
 - The process of curriculum shaping, development, monitoring, evaluation and review
 - Curriculum content from F to 12 for English, Mathematics, Science, History and Geography, and the place of the Cross-Curriculum Priorities and General Capabilities
- Make recommendations to the Australian Government Minister of Education

Key findings from the Curriculum Review

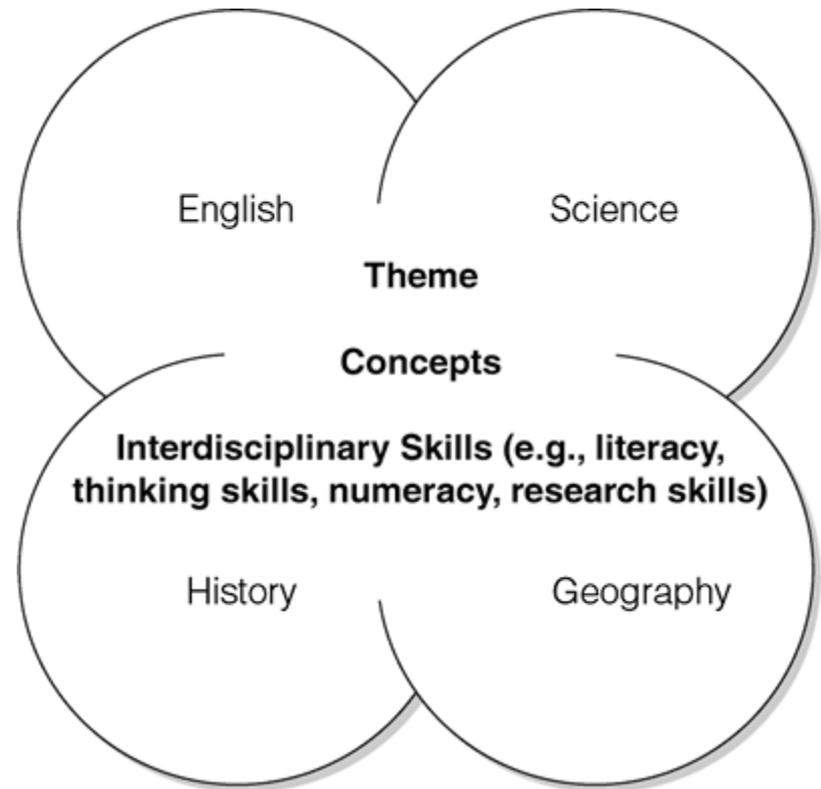
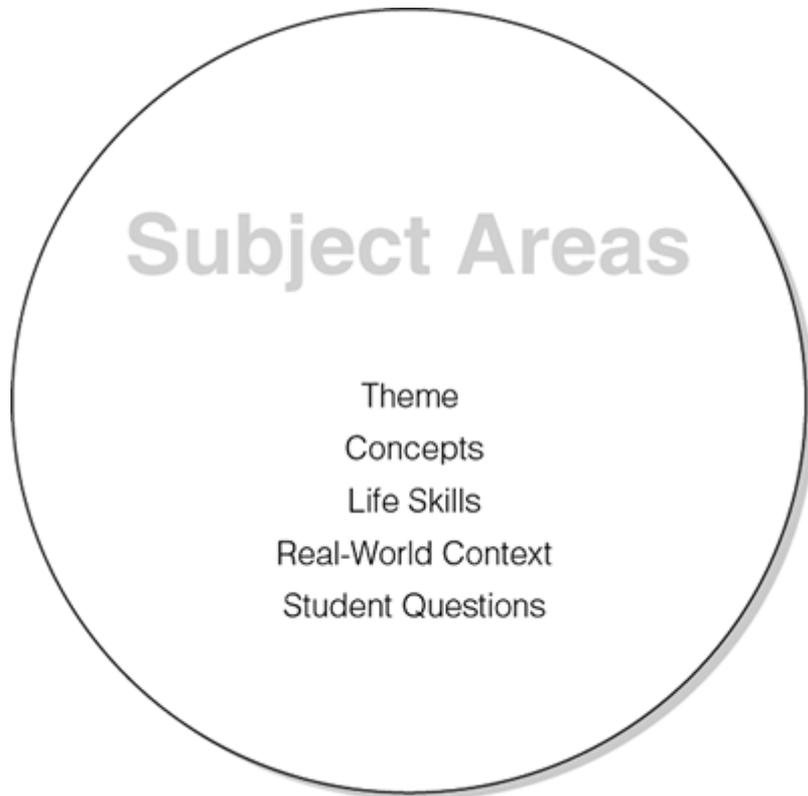
Commitment to an Australian Curriculum

- the Education Council endorsed the Australian Curriculum in eight learning areas:
 - Foundation to Year 10 Australian Curriculum for English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities and Social Sciences, The Arts, Technologies and Health and Physical Education.
 - Foundation to Year 10 Australian Curriculum: Languages for Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Modern Greek, Spanish and Vietnamese.
 - Australian Curriculum: Work Studies Years 9-10 (an optional subject designed to ready young people for work).
- Teaching coding

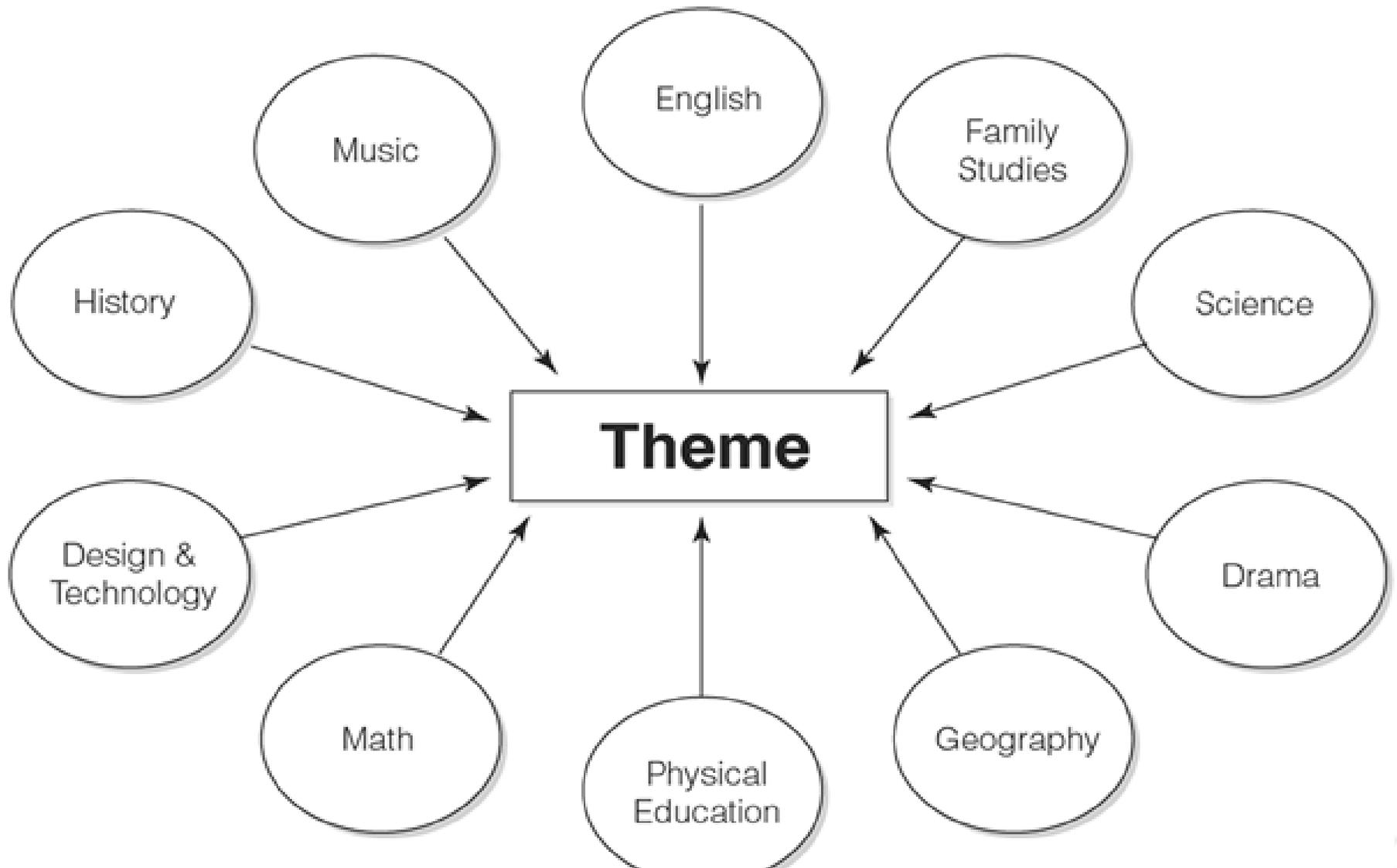
Integration in the Curriculum: emerging developments

- Making connections between big ideas, themes, disciplines
- STEM (Science, Technologies, Engineering and Maths)
- STEAM (Science, Technologies, Engineering, Arts and Maths)
- Cross curriculum priorities
- General capabilities: eg
 - ICT in teaching and learning

Integrating the curriculum



Integrating the curriculum



Teaching teachers

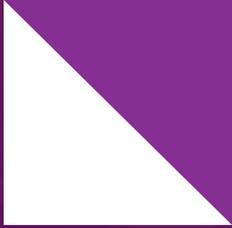
- Teaching teachers who can teach well
 - Professional standards for teachers
 - Teaching teachers to implement curriculum:
 - general approaches
- Different professional learning for different purposes
 - Working with professional associations
 - Role of school principals and supervisors
 - Communities of practice



Review of Initial Teacher Education

Teacher Education Ministerial Advisory Group

- National approach to Initial Teacher Education
- Stronger quality assurance of teacher education courses
- Rigorous selection for entry to teacher education courses
- Improved and structured practical experience for teacher education students
- Robust assessment of graduates to ensure classroom readiness
- National research and workforce planning capabilities
- Outcome: Accreditation of Initial Teacher Education programs



Thank you

Comments and questions