



7 December 2006

Memorandum to schools: Curriculum Council 6 December Meeting Update

The 6 December Curriculum Council meeting resolutions are outlined in this memo to schools.

Assessment 2007

Council confirmed that the arrangements for assessment outlined to schools in September for those teachers who are teaching one of the eight new courses will continue for 2007 only. See the memo to schools at http://newwace.curriculum.wa.edu.au/docs/168449_6.DOC

Assessment 2008 and beyond

Following consideration of a report titled '*Meeting the challenge of assessing in a standards-based education system*' by Professor Jim Tognolini, a leading education researcher, the Curriculum Council endorsed all but one of its recommendations (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8).

Assessment, review and moderation panels for each course will develop specific advice on the implementation of the report's recommendation 2, including sample assessment programs.

Overall, the Council endorses the report's recommendations that teachers have professional autonomy in the way they assess students. This accommodates variations between different courses.

The Curriculum Council will provide broad guidelines, as it does now, for all senior school subjects. While the Council will ensure comparability of student performance between schools, teachers' professional autonomy in assessing student work will be supported.

As recommended, an expert measurement and assessment advisory group will be established to provide advice on assessment issues, evaluate the application of the assessment process and a proactive research agenda.

The Council noted and acknowledged recommendation 6 that relates to results from different stage units being placed on a common scale. This has been referred to the expert measurement and advisory group for further advice.

The Tognolini Report, which is now available on the Curriculum Council website <http://www.curriculum.wa.edu.au/> confirms that the new senior school reforms are in line with Australian and world best practice.

Course Accreditation

The Council accredited the following WA Certificate of Education courses at the 6 December meeting.

- Aboriginal and Intercultural Studies
- Animal Production Systems
- Automotive Engineering and Technology
- Building and Construction
- Business Management and Enterprise

Children, Family and the Community
Chinese
Design (formerly Visual Communication Design)
Food Science and Technology
German
Health Studies
Integrated Science
Italian
Japanese
Marine and Maritime Technology
Outdoor Education (formerly Recreational and Environmental Studies)
Philosophy and Ethics
Plant Production Systems
Religion and Life

There were name changes for two courses following extensive feedback from teachers:
Recreational and Environmental Studies has been renamed Outdoor Education and Visual Communication Design has been renamed Design.

Agriculture has now been divided into two courses: Animal Production Systems and Plant Production Systems.

The following courses were re-accredited following refinement at the 6 December meeting.

Accounting and Finance
Aviation
Biological Sciences
Chemistry
Economics
Geography
Human Biological Science
Music
Physics

The courses listed above will be available to download from the Council's website from Monday 11 December.

The remaining seven courses will be presented for accreditation or re-accreditation on 19 December 2006.

History: Ancient and Modern
Career and Enterprise
French
Indonesian
Literature
Mathematics General*
Mathematics Specialist*

** The final names for these courses will be confirmed at the 19 December meeting.*

The Council is double checking some minor details of the History: Ancient and Modern, Career and Enterprise, French, Indonesian and Literature courses. Feedback on the mathematics courses has been incorporated and an examination template is being developed before these courses are presented to council for accreditation.

Aboriginal Languages of WA, Applied Information Technology, Computer Science, Dance, Drama, Engineering Studies, English, Materials Design and Technology, Media Production and Analysis, Earth and Environmental Science, English as an Additional Language/Dialect, Politics and Law, Psychology, and Physical Education Studies and Visual Arts were accredited/re-accredited at previous Council meetings in September and November 2006. These courses will be available to download from the Council's website from Monday 11 December.

Using new course content in existing subjects

Some schools have asked whether they can begin teaching content from new courses before they are due to be implemented. If teachers wish to use parts of units of a new course in Year 11 in 2007, they will need to ensure that their students are prepared adequately for Year 12 E code subjects and associated TEE examinations in 2008. In addition they must fulfil the assessment requirements of the D code subject. If this has been done teachers can make their own professional judgements about additional content.

Overarching Learning Outcomes

Overarching learning outcomes were reviewed during the course refinement process. This has resulted in changes to the overarching learning outcomes for the following courses: Biological Science, Chemistry, Physical Education Studies and Literature. A revised overarching learning outcomes table will be placed on the Council website on 15 December.

Community service requirement

The Council endorsed the community service requirement policy and guidelines which will be implemented from 2007 with certification starting from 2009. The policy and guidelines are now on the Council's website at http://newwace.curriculum.wa.edu.au/pages/about_what_is_voluntary.asp.

A log book for recording service hours has been developed and is being finalised for printing. Schools will be contacted early in 2007 to determine the number of copies required. There will be no cost for the log books. A draft of the log book can be seen at http://newwace.curriculum.wa.edu.au/docs/173998_1.doc. Alternatively, schools may choose to develop their own service record or incorporate the essential information into an existing booklet. The information required for Curriculum Council audit purposes can be accessed in Word format at http://newwace.curriculum.wa.edu.au/docs/175041_1.doc.

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