

## Education Council Meeting Communique

### Future arrangements for Education Ministers

On Friday 11 December 2020, Education Council met for the final time in its current configuration. Following National Cabinet's adoption of the findings of the Conran Review, Education Ministers will continue to meet in 2021 as the *Education Ministers Meeting*, with a revised focus on key strategic priorities and an emphasis on delivering effective outcomes.

Ministers considered a range of measures to encourage good process, reduce bureaucracy and ensure future Ministerial meetings mirror and build on the National Cabinet model. Ongoing national education architecture reforms will further support this new approach.

### National teaching initiatives

Education Council agreed to publish a narrative in the coming weeks to guide decision-making and commissioning of work at a national level to strengthen the teacher workforce and support quality teaching and school leadership.

The narrative has been developed in the context of the Alice Springs (Mparntwe) Education Declaration, which commits all governments to improving educational outcomes for young Australians. It highlights what has been achieved by governments working collaboratively and sets out the case for continued national collaboration. It also establishes principles for national collaboration, which will be used to guide future decisions on pursuing national actions.

Ministers acknowledged that the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership's *Teaching Futures: A National Teacher Workforce Strategy for Australia* paper has helped shape the future direction of Education Ministers' national and collaborative work on teaching. This will be published as a background paper shortly.

Ministers considered the Literacy and Numeracy Test for Initial Teacher Education (LANTITE) Scoping Study and agreed to provide further flexibility to initial teacher education students. From 2023, people who are planning to enrol in an initial teacher education course will have the opportunity to sit the LANTITE test before they commence their studies.

### Senior Secondary Pathways Review

Ministers agreed the proposed approach and workplan for priority recommendations of the Review of senior secondary pathways (Pathways Review), including governance and reporting arrangements.

There is a significant amount of work currently being progressed across the education and skills sectors, and within states and territories, that will support the response to the Pathways Review recommendations, including the Australian Curriculum Review (due to report in September 2021) and negotiations for a new National Skills Agreement (to be finalised in late August 2021). As a result, Education Ministers will focus on areas that can be actioned immediately and that address potential gaps in current activity, including:

- literacy, numeracy and digital literacy;
- developing a sample Learner Profile;
- agreeing a common language for skills and capabilities;

Further priorities, including improving career guidance and education and development of national strategy on vocational education and training delivered to secondary students, will be progressed jointly with Skills Ministers.

## **Review of the Measurement Framework for Schooling in Australia**

The Measurement Framework for Schooling in Australia provides the basis for Ministers to monitor and report to the community progress on the commitments and actions in the Education Declaration. It details all national key performance measures for schooling agreed by ministers, outlines the annual assessment and reporting cycle for the National Assessment Program and underpins statistical reporting on school performance in the National Report on Schooling in Australia (ANR) and ANR data portal.

Education Council endorsed the updated and revised Measurement Framework for Schooling in Australia 2020, which now reflects the Alice Springs (Mparntwe) Education Declaration. It replaces the Measurement Framework for Schooling Australia 2019 and will be published on the (ACARA) website shortly. During 2021, ACARA will also commence work to review existing measures and scope and prioritise new measures for inclusion in the National Measurement Framework. A full review of the measurement framework will be undertaken by ACARA at least every three years.

### **ACECQA Review**

The Education Council commissioned the ACECQA Review in December 2018, to ensure that the Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority's (ACECQA) operations remain 'fit for purpose' in the current Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) environment

The Review, undertaken by KPMG on behalf of Council, found that ACECQA plays an integral role in the regulatory ecosystem as the unifying mechanism for all nine governments and also found that there was strong and unanimous support for ACECQA and its role in promoting national consistency and driving continuous quality improvement. The Australian Government announced ongoing ACECQA funding at approximately \$15 million per year. From July 2020 to June 2023, ACECQA will receive \$46 million.

In December 2019, the Education Council endorsed the ACECQA Review report, and noted that a response to the Review would be developed in 2020. Education Ministers today determined that Review recommendations be supported or noted as appropriate. The Review resulted in ten recommendations and eleven improvement opportunities. Many have been completed or are in progress.

The Review response will be published on the Education Council website in the coming weeks.

### **National Quality Framework Review: Consultation Regulation Impact Statement**

Ministers endorsed the National Quality Framework Review (NQF Review) Consultation Regulation Impact Statement (CRIS). The NQF Review is primarily focussed on assessing whether the objectives of the NQF are being met, the ongoing effectiveness and sustainability of the NQF in light of the continuing evolution of the education and care sector, and whether the regulatory framework enables contemporary best practice regulation.

Engagement on the NQF Review will include a mix of online and face-to-face events (depending on local COVID-19 conditions). Stakeholders will have the opportunity to contribute feedback through written submission and surveys. Engagement will commence in early 2021.

## Approved Learning Frameworks

The Education Council has commissioned an update of the two national approved learning frameworks under the National Quality Framework (NQF) – the learning framework for children aged birth to five years (Belonging, Being & Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia), and the learning framework for school age care (My Time, Our Place: Framework for School Age Care in Australia).

As the national learning frameworks have been in use for close to a decade, the purpose of this update is to ensure they continue to reflect contemporary developments in practice and knowledge, while supporting all educators to best meet the learning and development needs of each child. The updated terms of reference can be [found here](#). Work on the update is expected to commence from early 2021, with a stakeholder feedback and engagement process from mid-2021.

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