

COAG Education Council

2014 Terms of Reference

Chair	The Chair rotates annually between all members (excluding New Zealand) according to Schedule 1. The Australian Capital Territory Minister for Education and Training is the 2014 Chair.
Membership	<p>The Council consists of members from the Commonwealth, and each state and territory. New Zealand is a non-decision-making member of the Education Council. Each jurisdiction can be represented by a maximum of two ministers with portfolio responsibility for school education, higher education and/or early childhood. Each jurisdiction will nominate a Senior Minister as a representative on the Council.</p> <p>The Chair may invite other Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries or representatives from other agencies to participate in specific meetings or discussions, as appropriate.</p>
Operations	<p>The Education Council will meet twice a year. Further work will be conducted out-of-session¹.</p> <p>The Education Council will make decisions on the basis of consensus wherever possible.</p>
Scope of Council responsibility	<p>The Education Council will assist the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) through national collaborative action to improve educational outcomes for all Australians, across all stages of the learning and development lifecycle. COAG Councils are responsible to COAG and will be engaged in work requiring COAG's attention.</p> <p>By connecting early childhood, school education and higher education, the Council aims to ensure that integrated Australian education systems seamlessly promote high achievement for all students regardless of circumstances. The Council will further collaborate to develop a research plan, and improve the evidence base, to inform policy development and priorities, and progress greater linkages of data through the life course to better understand education outcomes and productivity for all Australians.</p> <p>The Council's work will cover the following broad themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early childhood education and care; • Primary and secondary education, including vocational education and training in schools; • Higher education; and • International education. <p>This Council's work program will include its existing responsibilities under Commonwealth and State legislation, National Agreements, National Partnerships and any other governance arrangements, including national education architecture.</p> <p>In pursuing its priority actions for the next 18 months, the Council will consider the impact of regulation on individuals, early childhood and schools community organisations, education institutions (including vocational education and training and higher education institutions) and business. The Council will identify opportunities to reduce or remove this burden, wherever possible.</p> <p>The Council will work actively to help ensure all mainstream and Indigenous-specific policy, program and service delivery, improves outcomes for Indigenous people. Additionally, it will ensure performance information is in place to monitor the outcomes and address data gaps.</p>

¹ "Out of session" is taken to include all communications and decision-making fora outside of scheduled face-to-face meetings of the Education Council.

	<p>The Council will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on improving Indigenous school attendance with additional effort on remote schools and communities. • Actively work to improve transitions from secondary school to post-school options, including employment, for Indigenous students and school leavers. <p>The Council will ensure that other COAG Councils are included in policy discussions where appropriate. In particular, the Council will need to work closely with the new Industry and Skills Council on a range of issues.</p>
<p>Specific actions to progress Council responsibilities in the next 18 months</p>	<p>The Council's priority actions include</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement priority reform activities for early childhood including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Finalise recommendations from the 2014 National Quality Framework (NQF) review by October 2014 with a view to implementing agreed decisions following Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) consultation in early 2015. b. By June 2015, consideration of outcomes of Productivity Commission inquiry, including implications for Commonwealth/State/Territory roles going forward. c. By June 2015, develop and consider options to streamline the transition of children from early learning to formal schooling. 2. Australian Curriculum and National Assessment: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. By June 2015, F-10 languages curriculum to Education Council. b. By June 2015, F-10 curriculum (Civics and Citizenship, Economics and Business, Health and Physical Education, and Technologies), informed by relevant reviews, to Education Council. c. By December 2014, proposal on developing NAPLAN online, specifically in relation to costs and readiness to confirm the delivery date, to Education Council. 3. Teacher Quality and School Leadership: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. By April 2015, interim proposals for a national framework to support a high quality professional experience as part of initial teacher education, to Education Council. b. By August 2014, guidelines for a classroom practice continuum, aligned with the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers, to Education Council. c. By June 2015, proposal regarding effective preparation for leadership in autonomous schools, aligned with the Australian Professional Standard for Principals, to Education Council. 4. Indigenous education: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. By December 2014, new standard measurement framework to facilitate publication of twice-yearly data on school attendance for all students (broken down by Indigenous and non-Indigenous as requested by COAG), provided to Education Council. b. Commencing 2015, publish twice-yearly data on school attendance for all students broken down by Indigenous and non-Indigenous and the proportion of students attending school less than 90 per cent of the time and data by remoteness area by Indigenous and non-Indigenous. (COAG specific action). c. By June 2015, a new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education strategy, including proposals to improve: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Indigenous attendance, especially within remote schools and communities, and ii. Transitions from secondary school to post-school options, including employment, for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and school leavers, to COAG via the Education Council.

	<p>5. School Funding: From January 2015, advice for Council's consideration regarding reviews of the methodology to calculate loadings for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Students with disability. b. Low socio-economic status. c. English language proficiency. <p>6. Reducing regulatory burden: By June 2015, Council considers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Proposed changes to the NQF (informed by relevant reviews) targeting reductions to the regulatory burden to better enable services to focus on quality outcomes for children, to Education Council. b. Proposal regarding school education regulatory reduction. c. Remove duplicative reporting requirements for higher education institutions.
<p>Review and reporting</p>	<p>The Council will be reviewed annually by COAG against its priorities, including whether there is a continuing need for the Council.</p> <p>The Council will report to COAG as required on its progress.</p> <p>The Council is able to refer matters to COAG for its consideration, noting that these will be matters genuinely requiring First Ministers' attention (such as major decisions and intergovernmental agreements).</p> <p>The Council can also advise COAG on an exception basis, especially when its priorities are not progressing satisfactorily.</p>

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Schedule 1: Chairing cycle

The chairing of Education Council rotates annually between States, Territories and the Australian Government, for a calendar year.

The cycle of rotation for the chairing of Education Council is as follows:

2014	Australian Capital Territory
2015	Queensland
2016	Northern Territory
2017	Tasmania
2018	South Australia
2019	Australian Government
2020	Victoria
2021	Western Australia
2022	New South Wales

In any year, the next year's incoming Chair holds the position of Deputy Chair. The position of Chair is assumed by the Deputy Chair if and when the Chair is unable to attend meetings, or is temporarily absent.

The Chair of Education Council is responsible for convening meetings, including setting dates and venues.