



The Hon Alan Tudge MP

Minister for Education and Youth

Ref: MC21-005641

Mr Graham Young
Executive Director
Australian Institute for Progress
PO Box 1365
FORTITUDE VALLEY QLD 4006

By email: graham.young@aip.asn.au

Dear Mr Young *Graham*

Thank you for your email of 6 August 2021 regarding your press release on the Australian Curriculum (curriculum) Review and the link to your submission to the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA).

A rigorous, balanced and evidence-based curriculum is an important contribution to lifting Australia's performance, especially in literacy, numeracy and science. In addition, it is essential that the curriculum embeds values that encourage young Australians to be proud and active citizens. Students should understand our deep Indigenous history, the Judeo-Christian foundations which underpin our democracy, and our multicultural character.

In June 2020, all Education Ministers tasked ACARA to refine, realign and declutter the content of the curriculum. Between 29 April and 8 July 2021, ACARA released a draft curriculum for public consultation, to which your organisation made a submission.

ACARA received thousands of surveys and submissions. It is critical that within its consideration of these submissions, ACARA gives appropriate weight to the feedback from our top mathematics associations, reading experts and historians, among others.

Unfortunately, the draft released does not lift learning standards; bolster evidence-based practices or comply with the Terms of Reference to significantly simplify and declutter the curriculum. In addition, the draft history and civics content is not balanced and has an overly negative view of our nation.

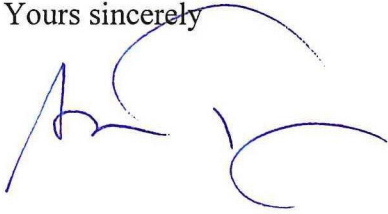
I recently wrote directly to the Chair of ACARA to outline my views and expectations. Education Ministers are due to consider the curriculum later this year and must agree to it before it is published. I can assure you I will not be agreeing to the curriculum unless it is significantly improved from the draft.

We all know the education landscape has been disrupted over the past 18 months with school systems adapting to remote learning - in some States and Territories much more than others. Teachers, school communities and families have done an incredible job to continue the education of our children and young people.

In this context, it is more important than ever to seize each opportunity to lift educational standards. The draft curriculum is such an opportunity.

I have enclosed a copy of my letter to the Chair of ACARA for your information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Alan Tudge', written over the words 'Yours sincerely'.

Alan Tudge

14/9 / 2021