

EDITORIAL

The National Curriculum Board is expected to deliver English, Mathematics, Science and History curricula by 2010, with a full national curriculum by January 2011, but what kind of national curriculum will it be? Quoted in the *Australian* last month, Chair Barry McGaw said particular curriculum statements will direct both pedagogy and content. The firm emphasis in comments by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education Julia Gillard have insisted on Commonwealth-state cooperation, and that's what the board's representative membership would seem to promise. Members include: Deputy Chair Tony Mackay, Executive Director of the Centre for Strategic Education; Tom Alegounarias, Chief Executive Officer of the New South Wales Institute of Teachers; John Firth, Chief Executive Officer of the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority; Kim Bannikoff, Director of the Queensland Studies Authority; Bill Loudon, Dean of Education at the University of Western Australia; Helen Wildash, Executive Director of Curriculum Services at South Australia's Department of Education and Children's Services; David Hanlon, Deputy Secretary in the Tasmanian Department of Education; Rita Henry, Executive Director of the Northern Territory Department of Employment, Education and Training; Janet Davy, Deputy Chief Executive of the Australian Capital Territory Department of Education and Training; Garry Le Duff, Executive Director of the Association of Independent Schools of South Australia; Brian Croke, Executive Director of the Catholic Education Commission of NSW; and Marie Emmitt, Dean of Education at the Australian Catholic University. Whether they simply weld together a coordinated curriculum or actually forge a national curriculum remains to be seen. **T**

FAST FACTS

- Budget allocation for 2008-09 for the Education Investment Fund for capital expenditure in higher and further education: \$5 billion, added to an existing \$6 billion.
- For rollout of the Digital Education Revolution: \$1.2 billion over five years.
- For school maintenance and infrastructure: \$1.7 billion over four years, with \$457 million for this financial year.
- For Trades Training Centres in Schools: \$2.5 billion over 10 years.
- To improve educational outcomes for Indigenous students: \$114 million.
- For the National Action Plan on Literacy and Numeracy: \$577.4 million over four years.
- For Skilling Australia: \$1.9 billion over five years.
- To encourage students to study Maths and Science at university: \$562.2 million over four years.
- To train and retain a high-quality early education workforce: \$126.6 million over four years.

QUICK QUIZ

1. Can the Director-General of the New South Wales Department of Education send a government school student whose past violent behaviour poses a current risk in a particular educational environment to a more suitable education setting?
2. What are Average Government School Recurrent Costs?
3. Who said feedback like 'did you write this?' provides very little guidance?
4. Which country might celebrate Britishness Day?
5. According to 2006 census data, what percentage of Australians say they hold a religious belief?
6. The *Workplace Relations Amendment (Transition to Forward with Fairness) Bill 2008* prevents the making of any *new* Australian Workplace Agreements: true or false?
7. You know you're a Gen Y because...
8. You know you're a Gen Y because...
9. You know you're a Gen Y because...
10. How ought you to pronounce 'memo'?

Answers: 1. yes; 2. the average costs of education per student in a government primary or secondary school; 3. Stephen Dinham; 4. Britain, but strictly speaking it should be Britishnessland; 5. 84 per cent; 6. true; 7. you were born between 1976 and 1991; 8. you prefer your manager to be more like a coach and less like a boss; 9. you're thoroughly sick of pop-sociological labels like, um, Gen Y; 10. you're on your own for this one.

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