

Parents' Voice in Government School Education

July 8, 2021

Parents Victoria submission to the Australian Curriculum Review

Parents Victoria (PV) - <https://www.parentsvictoria.asn.au/about-us> is the state parent organisation representing families in Victorian Government Schools. We are founding and ongoing members of our national organisation - Australian Council of State School Organisations (<https://www.acsso.org.au/>).

PV strongly supports the submission to the Review made by ACSSO. We agree a quality 21st century curriculum needs to focus on an inclusive, equitable, relatable education. Students need to see themselves reflected in the curriculum, and to see the relevance to their future lives in their learning.

We are particularly keen to see how the outcomes of the Review are communicated to our families.

PV has represented Victorian Government School families since 1925 and throughout our service and support to parents and carers, we have always acted in the best interest of young people – **our children, our concern.**

PV believes that the development of an Australian Curriculum is necessary as one way of ensuring that all students have access to vital areas of learning. An Australian Curriculum must be collaboratively developed, evaluated and rewritten or in this case, refined and redefined when and if necessary. Parents must be involved at all stages.

PV wishes to acknowledge ACARA's role and commitment to do the Review effectively, in a tight timeline and with all those involved and those invited to contribute.

The Australian Curriculum must be flexible, allowing state education systems and schools to adapt them to match local circumstances and must not prevent development of local curriculum.

PV is keen to see the outcome of this Review and how the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) responds and conducts their own review of the Victorian Curriculum F-10. Noting the timelines for reviewing the Victorian Curriculum are yet to be determined.

PV believes the Federal Government must fund the conduct of collaborative process for the development of an Australian Curriculum and must also fund

education programs designed to support our systems and schools in the use of the curriculum.

PV welcomes the undertakings as outlined by ACARA regarding communication materials for teachers and parents, in particular how the new Australian Curriculum will be presented online.

What PV hears from families and their students about curriculum content and areas of improvement was reinforced by the Parent Perspective Video ACARA shared on their Consultation webpage. We applaud that opportunity for parent and carer voices to be heard.

To know our Victorian student representative body, vicSRC, (<https://www.vicsrc.org.au/>) has contributed to this Review via the survey, emphasises the importance and value of student voice - potential future teachers in the making.

PV looks forward to continuing to work with ACARA, via ACSSO, to ensure every student in our Government school has access to a world class curriculum and are afforded equitable opportunities to achieve their best.

Parents Victoria Incorporated

PO Box 1170

Craigieburn Vic 3064

Contact: Gail McHardy 0413 589 627

Parents Victoria is the peak community organisation and the voice for every family and child in Victorian public education

Do you wish your submission to be treated as confidential? No.