



MEDIA RELEASE

INQUIRY INTO THE NSW SCHOOL CURRICULUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

25 June 2020

The NSW Upper House Portfolio Committee No. 3 – Education has commenced an inquiry into the NSW school curriculum. The inquiry commenced on the announcement that New South Wales is set to introduce a new school curriculum within the next four years, following a two-year review of the school curriculum conducted by Professor Geoff Masters.

The committee will examine the extent to which the Masters Curriculum Review addresses its terms of reference and meets key policy objectives, as well as a range of related issues.

The Chair of the Committee, the Hon Mark Latham MLC commented that 'recent NAPLAN and PISA results show that our State is sliding in academic attainment, economic competitiveness and social capability and fairness. It is absolutely the priority that we get what we are teaching our children right.'

Mr Latham encourages anyone interested in the reform of the school curriculum to make a submission by **Sunday 9 August 2020**.

For information about the inquiry or on how to make a submission, please visit the committee's [website](#).

TERMS OF REFERENCE

That NSW Legislative Council Portfolio Committee No. 3 - Education inquire into and report on the contents of and proposed changes to the NSW school curriculum, and in particular:

1. The extent to which the Masters Curriculum Review addresses its terms of reference, including:
 - (a) Curriculum content, flexibility and pedagogy
 - (b) Quality and relevance of the evidence-base underpinning the recommendations (compared to CESE findings)
 - (c) Recommendations for student-centred 'progression points' and 'differentiated learning' in schools and whether such initiatives are research-based and proven to be effective
 - (d) Relationship with the national schools curriculum

2. The extent to which the Masters Review meets key Government policy objectives, including:
 - (a) Addressing concerns about the overcrowding of the curriculum
 - (b) Ensuring students' acquisition of excellence in literacy and numeracy, as well as deep knowledge of key subjects
 - (c) Professor Masters' explanation for NSW declining school results and the role a revised curriculum can play in reversing this decline
3. Other matters of public concern and interest in the development of the NSW curriculum:
 - (a) To what extent, if any, 'cross-curriculum priorities' are needed to guide classroom content and teaching
 - (b) To what extent, if any, knowledge and the curriculum are 'socially constructed', requiring the teaching of source verification and fluidity principles
 - (c) Whether and to what extent schools should be involved in the 'social and emotional development' of students, as per the Melbourne/Alice Springs Declarations, and growing popularity of 'wellbeing programs' in NSW schools
 - (d) Adequacy of the content and depth of teaching of Australian history, pre- and post-1788
 - (e) Given the importance of English literacy across the curriculum, adopting the most effective evidence-based approaches to language acquisition, especially for reading and writing
 - (f) Role and effectiveness of vocational education syllabuses in NSW schools
 - (g) Effectiveness of NESA in curriculum development and supervision
4. Any other related matters.

-ENDS-

For further information please contact Committee Chair, the Hon Mark Latham MLC, on 9230 3682.