

MEDIA RELEASE

National Curriculum Consultation Begins Today

Friday 27 June 2008

Professor Barry McGaw launched the National Curriculum Board's extensive consultation process today when he opened the *Into the Future Forum* in Melbourne with over 200 participants .

"Today is the first of many consultation forums to inform the Board's task of developing national curriculum in English, mathematics, the sciences and history," he said.

"A wide range of national professional teaching organisations, state and territory agencies, universities, business and industry representatives, and the general community, including a large number of practising teachers, are engaged in key discussions here today.

Professor McGaw explained that the *National Curriculum Development Paper* which was used as the basis of forum discussions will be critical to the successful implementation of national curriculum and importantly a broad range of views on its content will be canvassed.

He explained that the curriculum development process will not start with a blank slate as there is already excellent practice across Australia and valuable lessons will be gleaned from international experience on which to build national curriculum.

"A world class curriculum cannot however be built just by stitching together good elements from different existing curricula," he emphasised.

Professor McGaw went on to state that curriculum should be based on the assumptions that all students can learn and that every child matters. Curriculum must take account of the different rates at which students develop.

"National curriculum documents will make clear to teachers what has to be taught, what students should learn and what achievement standards are expected of them. It must be feasible and be based on reasonable expectations of time and resources available to teachers. The needs of local school and regional differences and priorities and teachers' professional knowledge will be valued and significant in its development," he said.

The Board's development paper also explores a collaborative model for developing writing and quality assurance processes to develop national curriculum.

The development paper can be viewed at www.ncb.org.au

More information about this media release:

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