



Australian Government  
Department of Education and Training

Our Ref MC17-000043

Dr Judy Ryan  
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Dear Dr Ryan and Dr Curtis

Thank you for your email of 21 December 2016 to Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham, Minister for Education and Training, concerning Australia's national science curriculum. I have been asked to reply on the Minister's behalf.

The Australian Government is committed to supporting a quality school education system, ensuring students have access to the knowledge and skills they need to succeed. Since 2008, successive Commonwealth, state and territory governments and the non-government sector have worked together to develop the Australian Curriculum.

The Australian Curriculum has been established on a strong evidence base with broad engagement and sustained consultation shaping its design and content. In September 2015, the Foundation to Year 10 Australian Curriculum was endorsed across eight learning areas, including science. Its endorsement represents the culmination of extensive collaboration with subject matter experts and across jurisdictions, as well as consensus among all education ministers. For the first time in Australia's history, we have a national curriculum, which sets the expectations for what all students should learn, regardless of where they live or their background.

The Australian Curriculum is a dynamic curriculum, subject to evaluation, validation, benchmarking and peer review. The 2014 Review of the Australian Curriculum found considerable support for its structure, however some adjustments were made to strengthen the focus on literacy and numeracy, and curriculum content was rebalanced to address overcrowding, particularly in the primary years. I am confident that the revised Australian Curriculum provides our students with balanced and robust learning opportunities.

Future updates will consider contemporary research in disciplinary areas; new national and international knowledge. The next review of the Australian Curriculum is expected in 2020, at which time you are welcome to make a submission.

I trust this information is of assistance and I thank you for taking the time to share your views.

Yours sincerely

Nicole Panting  
A/g Branch Manager  
Curriculum and Students with Disability Branch

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