



Inquiry into the review of the New South Wales school curriculum

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.

Committee membership

Hon Mark Latham MLC	Pauline Hanson's One Nation	<i>(Chair)</i>
Hon Matthew Mason-Cox MLC	Liberal Party	<i>(Deputy Chair)</i>
Hon Anthony D'Adam MLC	Australian Labor Party	
Hon Wes Fang MLC	The Nationals	
Hon Scott Farlow MLC	Liberal Party	
Hon Courtney Houssos MLC	Australian Labor Party	
Mr David Shoebridge MLC	The Greens	