

**Submission
No 59**

INQUIRY INTO REVIEW OF THE NEW SOUTH WALES SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Organisation: HSC Japanese Committee

Date Received: 9 August 2020



Inquiry into the review of the New South Wales school curriculum

The HSC Japanese Committee embraces the desire to ensure the NSW school curriculum “equips students to contribute to Australian society in the 21st century”. The HSC Japanese Committee has been lobbying for many years towards achieving this.

Currently many students with Korean, Indonesian, Japanese and Chinese heritage are effectively excluded from studying the language of one or both their parents in years 11 and 12 of their school education. The HSC Japanese Committee endorses the curriculum review recommendation that “In the later years of school, give priority to providing every student with opportunities to pursue personal interests and strengths through rigorous, specialised subjects, each of which builds solid theoretical foundations, provides opportunities to transfer and apply knowledge and develop skills in the practical application of subject learning.”

Language learning is well suited to a shift from “progress based on time to progress based on attainment” advocated in the curriculum review. While students gaining knowledge and skills is the critical issue, alignment of assessment and reporting to this new paradigm is also necessary. Currently students studying at the highest levels of school-based language learning in background (In Literature) and heritage (In Context) courses have their achievement devalued through scaling based on their cohort’s attainment in other subjects. The result is that students demonstrating a significantly lower level of language achievement are given a much higher ‘scaled’ result, again based on the respective cohort’s achievement in other subjects.

Please find attached **TAB A** which picks up on aspects of the curriculum review which align with the HSC Japanese Committee’s position **TAB B** which is a more detailed exposition on the HSC language eligibility requirements and **TAB C**, our submission to the review itself.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to this Legislative Council inquiry.

Yours sincerely,

John Murn, Vice President

9 August 2020