



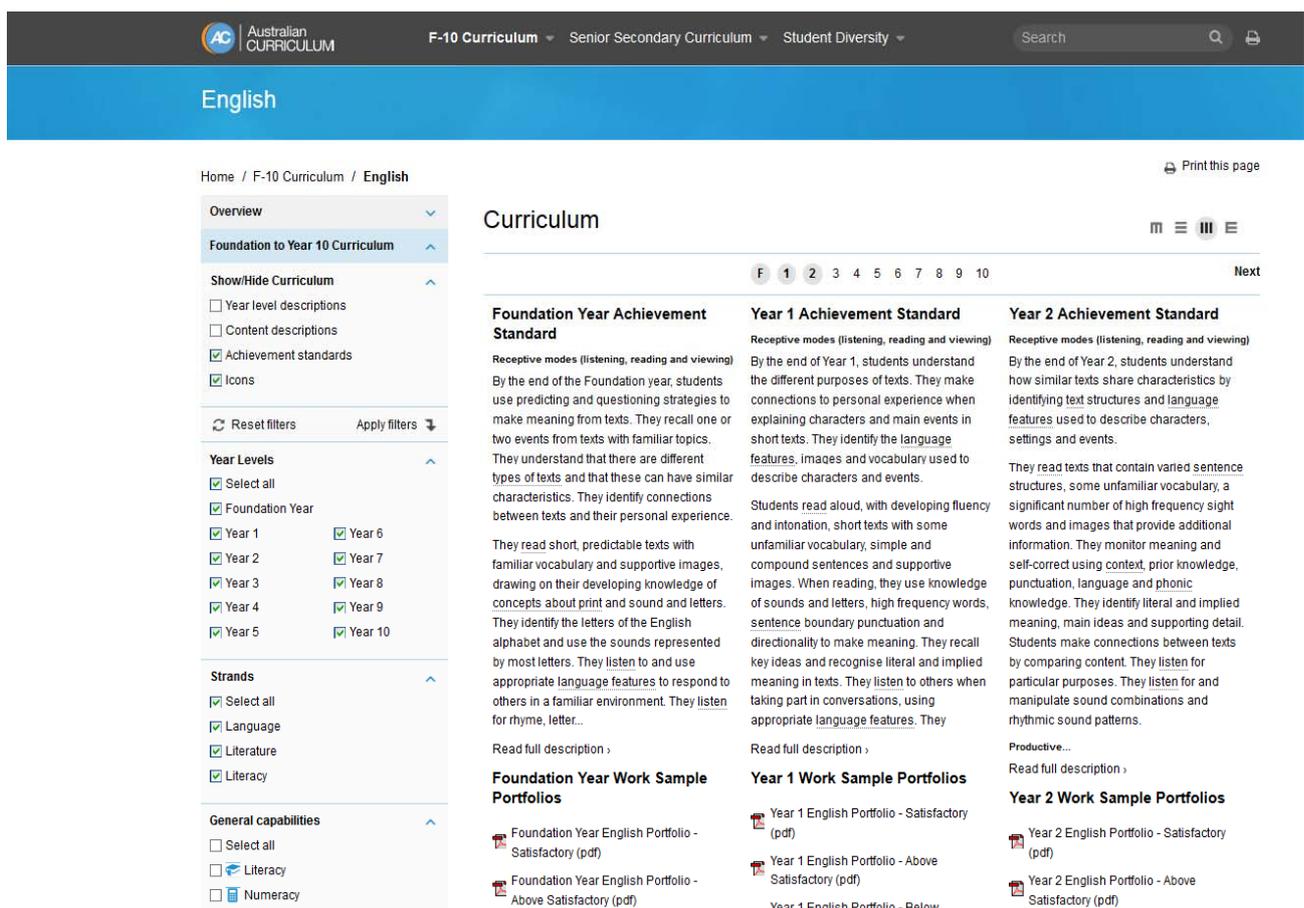
# PRIMARY MATTERS

Issue 2 July 2014

Welcome to the second edition of PRIMARY MATTERS – a quarterly update from the ACARA Primary Curriculum team. We hope this newsletter will explain more about ACARA’s efforts to add value to the assistance we provide to primary schools across Australia.

## AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM WEBSITE: What’s new?

The trial beta website is available and can be accessed from the home page of the current Australian Curriculum website. Ensure you search from your browser and not a previously tagged favourite in order to access version 6 of the Australian Curriculum. The new site offers more flexibility for primary teachers when planning and programming. Teachers will be able to select different views and filter the content to suit their individual requirements. One example of filtering and viewing would be to display three selected year levels (to assist when programming for multiage classes) as shown below:



The screenshot shows the Australian Curriculum website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the ACARA logo, menu items for 'F-10 Curriculum', 'Senior Secondary Curriculum', and 'Student Diversity', a search bar, and a print icon. Below this is a blue header with the word 'English'. The main content area is titled 'Curriculum' and features a breadcrumb trail: 'Home / F-10 Curriculum / English'. On the left, there is a sidebar with several filter sections: 'Overview' (with a dropdown arrow), 'Foundation to Year 10 Curriculum' (with an expand/collapse arrow), 'Show/Hide Curriculum' (with checkboxes for 'Year level descriptions', 'Content descriptions', 'Achievement standards', and 'Icons'), 'Year Levels' (with a 'Select all' checkbox and checkboxes for Years 1 through 10), 'Strands' (with a 'Select all' checkbox and checkboxes for 'Language', 'Literature', and 'Literacy'), and 'General capabilities' (with a 'Select all' checkbox and checkboxes for 'Literacy' and 'Numeracy'). The main content area displays three columns of curriculum standards: 'Foundation Year Achievement Standard', 'Year 1 Achievement Standard', and 'Year 2 Achievement Standard'. Each column includes a 'Receptive modes (listening, reading and viewing)' section with a brief description and a 'Read full description' link. Below the standards, there are sections for 'Foundation Year Work Sample Portfolios', 'Year 1 Work Sample Portfolios', and 'Year 2 Work Sample Portfolios', each listing portfolio documents with PDF icons and titles like 'Year 1 English Portfolio - Satisfactory (pdf)'. A pagination bar at the top of the content area shows page numbers 1 through 10, with page 1 selected. A 'Print this page' link is located in the top right corner of the content area.

Primary Curriculum team members are happy to discuss these projects. Contact them directly by email:

Laraine Lucas, Primary Curriculum Lead: [laraine.lucas@acara.edu.au](mailto:laraine.lucas@acara.edu.au)  
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## NEW STUDENT WORK SAMPLES

ACARA has updated the work sample portfolios.

Work sample portfolios are a resource to support teachers in planning and implementation of the Australian Curriculum. The set of portfolios assists teachers to make on-balance judgements about the quality of their students' achievement. The work samples have been collected from schools in each state and territory for English, mathematics, science and history. There are 132 portfolios with 1039 pieces of student work. You can find on the Australian Curriculum website below the achievement standards.

This year we are collecting student work samples to compliment the current geography portfolios and to establish portfolios for civics and citizenship, economics and business, the arts, technology, health and physical education. These will be available in early 2015.

## ILLUSTRATIONS OF PRACTICE: managing the primary curriculum

We are well under way with our work to provide schools with short vignettes showcasing ways various primary school leaders are approaching the management of the Australian Curriculum. ACARA officers have visited ten schools and whilst we are yet to complete publishing materials around the vignettes they will be available on ACARA YouTube site ([www.youtube.com/user/ACARAeduau](http://www.youtube.com/user/ACARAeduau)) as they are released.

When published on the Australian Curriculum website later in the year, the vignettes will offer leadership teams an understanding of how different schools manage implementation of the Australian Curriculum and ideally will assist schools to make decisions at a local level.

## MONITORING

In 2014, as a part of agreed monitoring and evaluation processes, ACARA has been gathering information about the effectiveness of the Australian Curriculum and identifying ways in which the curriculum may be improved over time. The 'Monitoring and evaluation of the Australian Curriculum' paper describes processes for systematically collecting feedback, analysing data on the effectiveness of the Australian Curriculum and reporting these findings to the ACARA Board in the second half of each year. The ACARA Board will determine if any findings require further evaluation and change. These processes will involve partnerships with state and territory curriculum and school authorities where subject data gathering is required.

Please pass our newsletter on to your primary colleagues. The Primary Curriculum team's contact details are below and we would welcome any feedback or questions about ACARA's work.

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