



Media Release

Year 12 Curriculum Content and Achievement Standards

Background

Education Minister, Julie Bishop MP, released the Year 12 Curriculum Content and Achievement Standards report conducted by the Australian Council for Educational Research on February 1, 2007. The findings in this report included:

- Physics and Chemistry are subjects with a very high degree of national curriculum consistency: 85 -95 percent of curriculum content is common across all states and territories in these subjects.
- Almost all topics considered essential by the review teams in Physics and Chemistry are already present in all state and territory curricula.

ASTA Response

- The ACER report which shows 85-95% consistency across Physics and Chemistry curriculum documents indicates that we already have close to a national curriculum in Physics and Chemistry.
- It is time to stop the waste of tax payer's money on independent state government development of curriculum documents which produce curricula that are 85-95% identical.
- In a country of just over 20 million people, it is difficult to justify 7 independent sets of curriculum each with independently developed resources.
- Tax payer funds would be better re-directed into the production of quality resources and quality professional development to support the teaching of science.
- ASTA is a key player in the drive to increase the standard of student performance through raising the quality of teaching practice. Quality professional development linked to standards, such as the ASTA National Professional Standards for Highly Accomplished Teachers of Science, is critical for improving teacher practice.

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