



Media Release

Federal Labor's Plan for a National Curriculum for Australian Schools

Background

Kevin Rudd MP and Stephen Smith MP released a joint media release on 28/2/07 outlining Labor's Plan for a National Curriculum which included the establishment of a National Curriculum Board.

ASTA Response

- ASTA welcomes Federal Labor's plan to establish a National Curriculum Board and to develop a rigorous and quality curriculum for all Australian students in the Sciences and the three other key areas.
- To ensure that the National Curriculum is rigorous, engaging and meets the needs of today's diverse student population, it is essential that the Australian Science Teachers Association, with its extensive network of quality science teachers, is represented on the National Curriculum Board.
- Today's school science student is tomorrow's decision maker on complex scientific issues such as stem-cell research and climate change.
- A quality science curriculum, supported by quality professional development and resources for teachers, is essential if we are to raise the levels of scientific literacy in our future decision makers, and to address potential skills shortages in the science, engineering and technology areas.
- It is time to put tax payer's money to better use than independent state government development of curriculum documents which produce curricula that are 85-95% identical (Year 12 Curriculum Content and Achievement Study – Feb 1 2007).
- 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.

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