

**14 September 2018**

## **Communiqué**

### **National School Reform Agreement**

The Education Council supported in-principle the progress of the National School Reform Agreement (NSRA) to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG), subject to negotiations on bilateral agreements, including appropriate recognition of state and territory education funding.

The NSRA outlines strategic reforms in areas where national collaboration will have the greatest impact and builds on current national reform efforts.

Bilateral agreements between the Commonwealth and state and territory governments will outline funding arrangements and take into account the specific contexts, existing reform efforts and starting points of each jurisdiction, and set out reform activities the state or territory will take to progress the national reform directions. Negotiations in respect of the NSRA and a number of bilateral agreements are underway.

The NSRA is due to be considered by COAG in October 2018.

### **National Review of Teacher Registration**

Education Council noted the recommendations of the National Review of Teacher Registration *One Teaching Profession: Teacher Registration in Australia* report. The Review considered how the current national registration framework is operating, including high-level implementation options, consistency, best practice, challenges and barriers. The Australian Professional Standards for Teachers, and how they are used in registration as a driver for teacher quality, was also a key focus for the Review.

The Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) will work with jurisdictions to develop an implementation strategy for all of the Report's recommendations, for consideration by Education Council at its next meeting.

### **Initial Teacher Education**

Ministers endorsed the revised national *Accreditation of initial teacher education programs in Australia: Standards and procedures* prepared by AITSL. The Standards were amended by AITSL in recognition of the ongoing national effort required to ensure that all initial teacher education graduates are ready to succeed in the classroom and have a positive impact on student outcomes.

AITSL will work with jurisdictions, schooling sectors and teacher regulatory authorities to design and operationalise the changes to the Standards, and to update support and training materials to reflect the new processes.

AITSL will report back to Education Council on progress and outcomes of the changes by June 2019.

## **NAPLAN**

Education Council received an update on 2018 student NAPLAN results and the release of result data. The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) outlined for Ministers the process it took to provide comparability between results for NAPLAN tests taken online and on paper.

National summary information for the 2018 assessment was published on 28 August, while Individual Student Reports are currently in the process of being distributed to students.

Ministers noted that an independent technical review of NAPLAN Online has been commissioned on behalf of the Education Council.

Education Council agreed that 2018 NAPLAN data on *My School* not be published until Ministers have considered the interim findings and recommendations of Education Council's review of NAPLAN data presentation, and agreed any action required at the December 2018 meeting.

## **Bullying and Cyberbullying**

In February 2018, COAG made a commitment to establish a working group of senior officials from First Ministers', Education, Justice and Health departments to consider existing and potential initiatives to help address bullying and cyberbullying. This working group delivered the "Enhancing community responses to student bullying, including cyberbullying" report and work program to Education Council, which endorsed the report and referred it to COAG for consideration.

The work program aims to keep Australia's students safe and promote a coordinated whole of community approach to bullying prevention. After consideration by COAG, officials will work collectively and with external stakeholders, including the Office of the eSafety Commissioner, to implement the work plan.

## **Early Learning Reform Principles**

At its meeting on 9 February, COAG asked the Education Council to provide advice in 2018 on reform principles informed by the recommendations and findings of the *Lifting Our Game* review (written by Professor Deborah Brennan and Ms Susan Pascoe AM). Education Council today met this request, endorsing the Early Learning Reform Principles, which will be provided to COAG.

This advice covers early learning from birth to school, which includes early childhood education and care, as well as other services that support families and children's wellbeing, learning and development in the first years of life.

Ministers also received advice from senior officials on the recommendations from the *Lifting Our Game* Report and complementary initiatives best pursued by Australian governments. Council noted that Professor Deborah Brennan and Ms Susan Pascoe AM are scheduled to present to COAG in October this year.