

# COMMON AND AGREED NATIONAL GOALS FOR SCHOOLING IN AUSTRALIA

Ten national goals for schooling provide a framework for cooperation between schools, States, Territories and the Commonwealth. The goals are intended to assist schools and systems to develop specific objectives and strategies, particularly in the areas of curriculum and assessment.

- 1 To provide an excellent education for all young people, being one which develops their talents and capacities to full potential, and is relevant to the social, cultural and economic needs of the nation.
- 2 To enable all students to achieve high standards of learning and to develop self-confidence, optimism, high self-esteem, respect for others, and achievement of personal excellence.
- 3 To promote equality of education opportunities, and to provide for groups with special learning requirements.
- 4 To respond to the current and emerging economic and social needs of the nation, and to provide those skills which will allow students maximum flexibility and adaptability in their future employment and other aspects of life.
- 5 To provide a foundation for further education and training, in terms of knowledge and skills, respect for learning and positive attitudes for life-long education.
- 6 To develop in students:
  - a the skills of English literacy, including skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing;
  - b skills of numeracy, and other mathematical skills;
  - c skills of analysis and problem solving;
  - d skills of information processing and computing;
  - e an understanding of the role of science and technology in society, together with scientific and technological skills;
  - f a knowledge and appreciation of Australia's historical and geographic context;
  - g a knowledge of languages other than English;
  - h an appreciation and understanding of, and confidence to participate in, the creative arts;
  - i an understanding of, and concern for, balanced development and the global environment; and
  - j a capacity to exercise judgement in matters of morality, ethics and social justice.
- 7 To develop knowledge, skills, attitudes and values which will enable students to participate as active and informed citizens in our democratic Australian society within an international context.
- 8 To provide students with an understanding and respect for our cultural heritage including the particular cultural background of Aboriginal and ethnic groups.
- 9 To provide for the physical development and personal health and fitness of students, and for the creative use of leisure time.
- 10 To provide appropriate career education and knowledge of the world of work, including an understanding of the nature and place of work in our society.

Providing a sound basis for a collaborative effort to enhance Australian schooling, the agreed national goals will be reviewed from time to time, in response to the changing needs of Australian society.

*At the July 1996 MCEETYA meeting the following goal was added:*

That every child leaving primary school should be able to read, write, spell and communicate at an appropriate level.\*

---

\* In March, 1997 this goal was amended to include numeracy.