



Australian Parents Council

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Parents strongly support focus on 'truth telling' in Australian Curriculum Review

The Australian Parents Council has firmly backed the focus on 'truth telling' and accurate accounts of historical events of the colonisation of Australia in a submission to the current Australian Curriculum Review.

'APC endorses the findings of ACARA's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Advisory Group for the Cross Curriculum Priorities and fully supports the idea of truth telling in this area. We must support the teaching and learning of honest and accurate accounts of historical events pertaining to the colonisation of Australia,' the submission to the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) says.

"The changes proposed by the review are simply a move towards open and honest discussion of our history, and this is what education should be about," explains Jenni Rickard, APC President.

"Australia's history is as rich as it is problematic. Nevertheless, to achieve reconciliation we need to acknowledge the dark parts of our Nation's past. Ignoring it is not going to make it go away. But when we know better, we do better. That is why it is imperative that accurate and truthful accounts of Australian history are learnt by all children at school. It takes nothing away from children and means everything to First Nations children."

"It wasn't until I attended university that I discovered that what I had learnt at school about Australian history to be untrue. It undermined my school experience and led me to ask: 'What else have I been taught that isn't true?' It also made me determined that my children wouldn't experience the same white washing of history."

APC also supported other proposed changes including 'decluttering', and improvements that make the curriculum easier for teachers to use. Public consultation on the proposed changes included in the review closes on July 8.

Ends

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- The full text of APC's submission on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Advisory Group for the Cross Curriculum Priorities proposals is as follows:
'APC endorses the findings of ACARA's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Advisory Group for the Cross Curriculum Priorities and fully supports the idea of truth telling in this area. We must support the teaching and learning of honest and accurate accounts of historical events pertaining to the colonisation of Australia. Confirming the embedding of such perspectives consistently across all curriculum areas retains the importance of making Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures a foundational cross curriculum priority. Essentially underpinning authentic Australian curriculum as foundational for our country, culture, reconciliation and future. APC commends the community consultation that ACARA has undertaken in preparing the curriculum review. Part of the consultation was the formation of several reference groups of which the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group was one. The eight areas identified by the Advisory group, listed as outdated organising ideas, are supported by us. We continue to amplify and recognise Indigenous voices to lead the way forward. APC identifies a linkage between the updating of these organising ideas and the ideals of the Mparntwe Education Declaration. Specifically, two points made in Goal Two: "confident and creative individuals, who have a sense of self-worth, self-awareness and personal identity that enables them to manage their emotional, mental, cultural, spiritual and physical wellbeing", and "Active and informed members of the community, who act with moral and ethical integrity".'
- The Australian Parents Council is the peak national parent body representing families with children at non-government schools. It is an independent organisation providing an authentic parent voice. We pursue policy, practice, programs, partnerships and collaboration that maximise school outcomes for all Australian children