

Geography in the 21st Century: A National Curriculum for Australia

The National Curriculum Board will produce a national curriculum for geography during the second phase of its work. Australian geographical organisations are collaborating to develop a unified position on a K to 12 national geography curriculum, prior to the Board commencing its work on geography.

A paper titled *Geography in the 21st Century: a National Curriculum for Australia* will be written using the National Curriculum Board's subject-specific documents, *Proposed Structures for the National Curriculum*, as a guide. A draft of the paper will be available by March 2009 for further review. There will be wide consultations on this draft, including meetings in each state.

To write this draft, input from teachers, students, academics and other community members is required. We need your input, and that of your students. Guiding questions are at www.science.org.au/natcoms/nc-geography-callforinput.doc.

Responses must be received **by 8 December 2008** by one of the following methods:

Email to: secretariat@ngc.org.au

Online survey: www.ngc.org.au

Please visit the website www.ngc.org.au for the latest news and progress of this initiative. All queries should be directed to Kath Berg via email: secretariat@ngc.org.au.

The members of the project's Steering Committee thank you for your input:

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Geographical organisations in Australia are developing a unified position on the future national geography curriculum. The questions below seek input on the areas to be covered in the National Curriculum Board's subject-specific *Proposed Structures for the National Curriculum*. Please complete this survey and respond by **8 December 2008** via one of the following methods:

Email to: secretariat@ngc.org.au

Online survey: www.ngc.org.au

Providing your name and email address will enable us to keep you informed of progress and invite further feedback at the next stage of consultation.

Name:

Email:

State: capital city outside capital

student age: state school private school tertiary

teacher primary secondary state school private school

academic education geography

community member

- 1 How should geography be defined in the curriculum?
- 2 Why is it important for students to study geography?
- 3 What should be the objectives of a geographical education?
- 4 What are the core geographical concepts that must be included in the curriculum?
- 5 What skills should a geographical education develop?
- 6 What are the core areas of geographical knowledge that need to be included?
- 7 Do you favour a curriculum with concepts or topics as an organising structure, and why?
- 8 Which topics engage students, and why; and which topics do not engage students, and why?
- 9 How should the delivery of the geography curriculum be organised at the different stages of schooling - early years, primary, junior secondary and senior secondary?
- 10 Please provide details of any research papers on geographical education that have been useful in your teaching.
- 11 Do you have any other advice on the development of a national geography curriculum?

Thank you for your time to help make a great national geography curriculum.