

19 March 2014

The Hon Christopher Pyne MP  
Minister for Education  
PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Minister,

I am writing to you in my capacity as Vice President of the Victorian Association for the Teaching of English, and Chairperson of its Curriculum and Assessment Committee.

Our organisation comprises English teaching professionals from across all three educational sectors, government, independent and Catholic, and incorporates primary, secondary and tertiary members. It seeks to facilitate and support best teaching practice of English and has a large and active individual and institutional membership from throughout the state of Victoria.

Naturally, we are most anxious to ensure that our members are fully cognisant of all relevant educational and curricular developments which pertain to the teaching of English. Accordingly, we have been seeking to support our members in their gradual implementation of the Australian Curriculum: English over the last two years, since any major curriculum change requires time both to appreciate and incorporate into one's pedagogical practice.

Therefore, your announcement in January this year to conduct a review of the extant Australian Curriculum documentation and model by Prof Ken Wiltshire and Dr Kevin Donnelly has raised some important and pressing questions for us which we wish to pose to you herein, as follow:

1. Given that we have already been implementing this initiative, what are the implications of this Review for this process?
2. Why has ACARA to date made no reference to this Review?
3. How will this current Review impact on the current review of VCE English and Literature being undertaken by the state VCAA, given that this review is intended to align the VCE with the Senior Australian Curriculum: English?
4. What timeline is proposed for any such changes or modifications sought?
5. Will bodies such as VATE be able to make submissions once any changes are released for discussion?
6. How will ACARA support and facilitate any such changes?

We would ask you to consider these concerns and respond as soon as you are able. This will clearly assist VATE in apprising its membership of the status of AC:E and future plans.

Thanking you in anticipation of your prompt attention to this request.

Yours sincerely

Ross Huggard, *Vice President*