This Annual Review provides an overview of the achievements of Curriculum Corporation for the 12 months to 30 June 2008.

The Board’s strategic focus during this period has been on meeting Ministers’ key priorities and achieving sustainability of cost-effective services for members.

With the announcement of the federal election in November 2007, the Board anticipated a possible reduction in project work. However, this did not eventuate, with over 100 small and large-scale projects completed during the year.

Curriculum Corporation worked closely throughout the year with state and territory education authorities in the construction of the first national literacy and numeracy tests for Years 3, 5, 7 and 9, which were conducted in all schools nationwide in May 2008.

Collaboration continued with education authorities, cultural agencies and the multimedia industry sector in Australia and New Zealand to develop digital resources and support greater access through The Le@rning Federation initiative. This work builds on successful delivery over six years of this national initiative and provides a sound foundation for implementation of the Digital Education Revolution and the National Curriculum.

Curriculum development outcomes continued to be delivered in core areas including literacy and numeracy, mathematics, science, civics and citizenship, history and Asia literacy, and professional learning services and resources were delivered directly to schools. Technology systems continue to be developed and improved to streamline large-scale national project administration, enabling collaboration among stakeholders and extensive consultation.

In May 2008, Curriculum Corporation moved into new premises at 440 Collins Street, Melbourne resulting in improved accommodation at no extra cost.

Curriculum Corporation’s employees deserve recognition for their professionalism and commitment, as do personnel in all education authorities who have been involved in collaborative curriculum projects.

We would especially like to thank the Directors for their active contribution in overseeing the effective governance of Curriculum Corporation.

Margaret BANKS
Chair

Susan MANN
CEO
The Year in Review

About Curriculum Corporation

Curriculum Corporation was established in 1989 as a partnership of all Australian Education Ministers to support cost-effective national curriculum collaboration. The company is governed by a board of representatives of the Ministers, along with representatives of the New Zealand Ministry of Education, the Catholic and independent education sectors, and peak bodies representing teachers and parents.

The composition of the Board enables close governance of national work by Ministerial representatives, responsiveness in enacting the strategic initiatives of Ministers and accountability to key stakeholders.

In 2007–08, Curriculum Corporation has continued to work collaboratively towards the Ministers’ national goals and priorities. These include the collaborative development of the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN), and The Le@rning Federation initiative that is developing an extensive pool of online content, free from ongoing copyright fees. All content is linked to Australian and New Zealand curriculum frameworks and will support national curriculum, national assessment and digital education revolution priorities.

Curriculum and assessment resources and professional services were delivered in areas including digital education, literacy and numeracy, early childhood education, student health and wellbeing, science, vocational education and training, civics and values, Asia literacy, boys’ education, careers, the environment and global education.

Curriculum Corporation has worked extensively with education systems and sectors, other Ministerial companies, industry, the teaching profession, professional associations and education peak bodies and agencies, both nationally and internationally, to accomplish its tasks.

The key value of Curriculum Corporation lies in its capacity to collaborate in sustained partnerships, and to work with stakeholders and partners to deliver education resources, systems, technical infrastructure and professional services.

Curriculum Projects

In 2007–08, there was activity in over 100 projects encompassing curriculum development, professional learning and the production of print, digital and online resources. All projects required an innovative and creative approach to define the work and draw on expertise in curriculum development, assessment, pedagogy, instructional design, business analysis, system design, professional learning, implementation and evaluation. Curriculum Corporation is experienced in collaborating on development and in managing large, multidimensional national curriculum projects.

Projects were commissioned by the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA), the Australian Education Systems Officials Committee (AESOC), individual education systems, the Australian Government, other government agencies and the private sector. Most were secured through public tender.

In 2007–08, Curriculum Corporation continued to manage large-scale Australian Government grants projects for schools in literacy, science, mathematics and technology, boys’ education, values education and careers education. These projects brought the company in direct contact with thousands of schools across the country, enabling innovation, research and professional learning at the school level. Schools were often linked with universities and other agencies, such as the CSIRO, to bring the latest discipline knowledge and teaching practices into the classroom.
National curriculum projects in 2007-08 include:

Interim National Curriculum Board website » supporting the work of the interim National Curriculum Board by developing a website for communication and consultation

Early Childhood Learning Resources » developing early childhood literacy and numeracy digital and print resources for parents and practitioners

Values Education » fostering a planned and systematic approach to values education in schools with particular emphasis on values within curriculum, pedagogy and the whole school ethos; working with states, territories, schools and universities to identify and disseminate good practice through school-based research; developing curriculum and professional learning resources

MindMatters » supporting student and staff wellbeing through learning resources and connected school communities in association with Australian Principals Associations Professional Development Council (APAPDC)

Success for Boys (boys’ education) » supporting 1,600 schools across Australia in their delivery of a teacher professional learning program and implementing local school programs

Australian Schools Innovation in Science, Technology and Mathematics (ASISTM) » supporting over 1,900 schools nationally to encourage innovation; supporting coordination between primary and secondary school programs; promoting sustainable change in learning and teaching; linking schools with expertise available in outside agencies, industry and the community

Civics and Citizenship Education » building knowledge of history, law, government, civic institutions and civil society; providing opportunities for active student engagement; developing online resources, connecting communities to support professional learning and good practice

Gallery of Australian Democracy » developing online materials about each colony’s move towards Federation and the nation’s history

National Accelerated Literacy Program » providing instructional design for resources developed by Charles Darwin University that are targeted at lifting the literacy standards of Indigenous students

Reading Assistance Voucher Program » working with all jurisdictions to provide tuition to students who did not meet the literacy benchmark for Year 3 in 2006

An Even Start » developing digital and print resources for An Even Start, the national tuition program for students who did not meet one of the literacy or numeracy benchmarks for Years 3, 5 or 7 in 2007, administering An Even Start for private tuition providers Australia-wide and, on behalf of Victoria, providing school-based tuition to students

The Consumer and Financial Literacy Professional Learning Program » building the capacity of teachers to engage students in consumer and financial literacy across the curriculum; enacting the National Consumer and Financial Literacy Framework through a professional learning package and an accompanying website

Languages Other Than English » developing digital and print resources to support the learning of languages and promote intercultural understanding

Global Education » supporting schools and teachers to address global education issues by providing online, print and digital resources, including a revision of the Global Perspectives Statement

Asia Literacy » establishing the importance of Asia literacy and Asian languages as a proactive partner of the Asia Education Foundation, a joint activity of Curriculum Corporation and Asialink; encouraging and supporting school engagement with Asia through curriculum, digital and print resources, and professional services.
Digital Curriculum Content

Digital curriculum and professional resources, including multimedia, web services, online resource databases, professional publications and practical teaching guides, have been produced and include more than 10,000 web pages.

This was the second year of phase three of The Learning Federation, a collaborative effort on the part of all Australian and New Zealand governments to provide free access to high quality online content to Australian and New Zealand schools. The growing library of digital content is on track to achieve the defined target set by Ministers for 8,600 interactive learning and digital resources by June 2009, with 1,068 items of new content published this year.

Strong relationships with cultural and public organisations have secured school sector access to significant Australian and New Zealand cultural and public assets. In 2007–08, content has been procured from a broad range of sources including eleven cultural organisations, twelve multimedia developers, three publishers, the VET sector and international projects. Continued partnership with the Australian Film Commission through the australianscreen project has delivered an additional 284 film clips with teacher notes for use in schools. All Learning Federation content is licensed and copyright cleared so that no further charges, such as collection-agency fees, are payable by either schools or school authorities.

The Learning Federation resources have been tested during development in over 500 schools across Australia and New Zealand and reviewed by thousands of students and teachers. Jurisdiction feedback confirms that content is popular with both students and teachers, with content currently being accessed over four million times per month across Australia. Field research trials in 2007–08 with schools that include a large number of Indigenous students reported that they find the content motivating, engaging and relevant. Independent research has demonstrated that the use of digital content improves learning outcomes for students, particularly in areas which are conceptually difficult for classroom teaching and learning. Australian students’ outcomes in international assessment programs have provided a base to determine the nature of multimedia learning and assessment resources to aid student engagement and learning in literacy, mathematics and science.

In 2007–08, partnerships were established with 39 universities to provide pre-service teachers with direct online access to resources to implement The Learning Federation content in classroom practice. The Australian Association for the Teaching of English project delivered 14 units illustrating how exemplary English and literacy teachers from across Australia have integrated The Learning Federation content in teaching and learning.

**Types of matter: solids, liquids, gases L5821 – Years 7-8**

Students use a magnifying tool to examine household items at the atomic level. They then classify the substances as solids, liquids or gases based on the arrangement and motion of their particles.

**The journey of the Hong Hai L779 – Years 4-5**

Students retrace the 51-day journey of the Vietnamese fishing vessel, the Hong Hai, which carried the first refugee ‘boat people’ to Australia in 1978. They explore historic artefacts and find out about the hardships and key events of the voyage.
Online collaboration tools have been used by over 500 teachers and curriculum leaders in schools across Australia and New Zealand to provide feedback on The Le@rning Federation digital resources and services. Web-based systems were developed to manage An Even Start project, as well as the secure online distribution and review of national test items. All systems were built to standards and comply with accessibility legislation.

Digital Systems and Services

Management of large-scale national education initiatives requires technology support systems to enable speed and accuracy of operation, and national reach in development, consultation, communication, review and accountability functions. Curriculum Corporation has developed web-based systems to support education program development, collaboration, communication and implementation.

The Decision Support System, for example, supports national management of school grant applications and selection; provides feedback to schools conducting pilot projects; enables reporting; and ensures accountability for funding and access to project partners in the Australian Schools Innovation in Science, Technology and Mathematics project. This enables over 1,900 schools, and university and industry partners across Australia, to work collaboratively and share information with each other and project managers.

In 2007–08, enterprise systems have been developed for distributing The Le@rning Federation resources and digital content from cultural organisations to education systems and schools. They provide states and territories with mechanisms for sharing existing content, and further national collaboration and communication. Scootle and econtent were developed to provide access for jurisdictions and pre-service educators previously unable to access The Le@rning Federation content. There are over 8,000 registered users for these services, with rapid growth in registrations.

In addition to web systems, over 90 websites are hosted for education agencies and other education stakeholders. In 2007–08, ten websites have been developed, a number of which include interactive Web 2.0 tools, to support consultation and communities of practice in a range of curriculum areas.
Assessment and Testing

The Australian Education Systems Officials Committee commissioned Curriculum Corporation to manage the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). This involved the development and delivery of the 2008 and the 2009 Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 national literacy and numeracy tests.

In 2007–08, Curriculum Corporation worked collaboratively with the Australian Government, states and territories, and the Catholic and independent sectors to develop the first national literacy and numeracy tests. The tests for reading, writing, language conventions and numeracy were endorsed by Australian Education Systems Officials Committee in December 2007 and delivered, on schedule, to 1.1 million students nationwide on 13, 14 and 15 May 2008.

In 2007–08, an agreed national approach and uniform standards were achieved for test development and design, test protocols, marking, data analysis and reporting, equating, quality assurance and test security. This provides a strong foundation for testing in 2009 and beyond.

The NAPLAN website, developed in 2007, has provided teachers and parents with test information and access to sample test items, and test administration authorities with secure access to project documents. In 2007–08, Curriculum Corporation managed the provision of national testing services for the non-government sector and schools.

The Multilevel Assessment Program (MAP) test was managed on behalf of the Northern Territory and conducted in August 2007.

In 2007–08, the Assessment for Learning project produced a two-hour DVD, Putting it all together, showcasing units of work filmed in the classroom. Over 4,000 copies will be distributed.

Professional Services and Resources

In 2007–08, 45 digital and print resources were added to the CurriculumPress range of professional resources for educators. Products are underpinned by sound teaching pedagogy and an understanding of curriculum and resource development. Key topics included literacy, numeracy, independent learning, values education, middle years, early years, student wellbeing, Asia literacy and Asian languages.

Seven professional learning seminars for teachers were conducted in 2007–08. Professional learning DVDs were developed to support teachers of years K–12 in areas including classroom management, reading comprehension, assessment, literacy, spelling, performing arts, values and visual literacy.
National journals published include *EQ Australia*, a quarterly magazine with articles by leading educators, and the free online weekly journal, *Curriculum Leadership*, covering policy and issues of interest to school leaders. Registered *Curriculum Leadership* subscribers increased by 20%, with average monthly downloads increasing from 22,000 in 2007 to 68,000 in 2008. The weekly online bulletin, *This Week*, was distributed to 7,500 registered subscribers, an increase of 10% from 2007. The quarterly *Connections* newsletter, which features practical ideas, strategies and topical information for teacher librarians, was provided both in print and electronically to every Australian school and electronically to all New Zealand schools.

The 14th annual conference, *21st Century Curriculum: Taking Bearings*, was held in Sydney in November 2007 and was sponsored by the NSW Department of Education and Training. Attracting over 450 educators from Australia and overseas, and led by international and Australian experts including Lord David Puttnam, Ben Levin, Mick Waters, Tom Bentley and Professor Peter Dawkins, the conference explored globalisation, the evolution of advanced technologies and greater national consistency in the curriculum. The 2008 conference, *21st Century Learning: Acting (Inter)Nationally*, will be held in Melbourne on 10–11 November and will be sponsored by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Victoria.

**Digital Library Services**

Curriculum Corporation’s *Schools Catalogue and Information Service (SCIS)* database has reduced the time required for cataloguing in school libraries throughout Australasia, substantially reducing costs to schools and education jurisdictions. SCIS contains more than one million catalogue records of educational materials, including a large variety of non-book materials featuring over 2,000 resources and over 10,000 websites. Book cover images are also made available for use in school library systems. Approximately 3,500 catalogue records were added to the SCIS database each month. In 2007–08, over eight million SCIS records were provided to individual schools in Australia and New Zealand.

The *Schools Online Thesaurus (ScOT)* supports education jurisdictions in applying educational metadata to facilitate the discovery of digital resources and improve search engine capabilities. It is the only metadata thesaurus that arranges Australasian curriculum topics into a browsable taxonomy using natural language syntax. ScOT has been incorporated into the SCIS database. User trials in 2007–2008 found that ScOT is intuitive to teachers, and provides greater precision and relevancy in searching for and the retrieval of digital resources.
Global Connections

Curriculum Corporation has continued to engage in educational project management through partnerships with aid agencies such as AusAID, the World Bank, UNICEF and the Asian Development Bank, as well as with complementary organisations that provide educational services, projects and products both nationally and overseas. International visitors to Curriculum Corporation during 2007–08 included officials and teachers from Indonesia, Vietnam, the Philippines, Thailand, South Korea and Bahrain.

International projects conducted in 2007–08 included:
- **Indonesia**: training on project analysis and design
- **Mongolia**: third education development and national curriculum framework development for the 12-year education system
- **Mongolia**: child rights curriculum review
- **Papua New Guinea**: upper secondary curriculum and assessment development
- **The Philippines**: basic education project in Visayas region (STRIVE)

Recognition

In 2008, the quality of The Le@rning Federation digital resources and services was recognised with two IMS Global Learning Consortium Learning Impact Awards:

- the **International Learning Impact Leadership Award** for learning objects and support services
- the **International Best in Category Award** for the best digital learning content.

In 2007–08, teacher and client surveys recognised Curriculum Corporation’s commitment to quality, project management, communication and responsiveness to feedback with an average overall client satisfaction rating of 4.1 on a five-point scale. Over 94% of surveyed participants indicated that they would recommend Curriculum Corporation.
Board Members as of 30 June 2008

Ms Margaret BANKS
Chief Executive
Northern Territory
Department of Employment, Education and Training
Commenced December 2005
Chair of the Board

Dr Dabhe SUGGETT
Deputy Secretary, Office for Education, Policy and Innovation
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Victoria
Commenced May 2004
Deputy Chair of the Board Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee

Mr William DANIELS
Executive Director
Independent Schools Council of Australia
Commenced March 2007
Member of the Finance and Audit Committee
Member of the Strategic Planning Committee

Mr Christopher ROBINSON
Chief Executive Officer
South Australia
Department of Education and Children’s Services
Commenced October 2006
Member of the Strategic Planning Committee

Dr Evan ARTHUR
Group Manager
Schools Teaching, Students and Digital Education Revolution Group
Commenced February 2008
Member of the Finance and Audit Committee

Mr David AXWORTHY
Executive Director
Schools Support Services Western Australia
Department of Education and Training
Commenced January 2008

Mr Michael COUTTS-TROTTER
Director-General
New South Wales
Department of Education and Training
Commenced April 2007

Mr Craig CURRY
Executive Director
Australian Capital Territory Department of Education and Training
Commenced October 2006
Member of the Finance and Audit Committee

Ms Jennifer BRANCH
President
Australian Council of State School Organisations Inc.
Commenced May 2006

Ms Rachel HUNTER
Director-General
Queensland Department of Education and the Arts
Commenced November 2006

Mr Angelo GAVRIELATOS
Federal President
Australian Education Union
Commenced February 2008

Ms Karen SEWELL
Chief Executive
New Zealand Ministry of Education
Commenced February 2007

Mr John SMYTH
Secretary
Department of Education, Tasmania
Commenced November 2005

Mr Christopher ROBINSON
Chief Executive Officer
South Australia
Department of Education and Children’s Services
Commenced October 2006
Member of the Strategic Planning Committee

Ms Karen SEWELL
Chief Executive
New Zealand Ministry of Education
Commenced February 2007

Ms Patricia BYRNE
Federal President
Australian Education Union
May 2005 – February 2008
Member of the Finance and Audit Committee
Member of the Strategic Planning Committee