This Annual Review provides an overview of the achievements of Curriculum Corporation for the twelve months to 30 June 2009 and marks twenty years since its establishment by Ministers in 1989.

Curriculum Corporation has always been committed to enacting national agreements arising from Ministers’ collaboration on broad issues vital to education in Australia and New Zealand. This financial year saw the largest output of work in the history of the company with activity in over 200 projects.

Curriculum Corporation managed the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy for the Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs (MCEECDYA, formerly MCEETYA) for the second year. It collaborated with States and Territories to successfully develop and deliver the literacy and numeracy tests for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 across Australia.

This year also saw the completion of Phase Three of The Le@rning Federation Initiative resulting in a national pool of around 9,000 digital curriculum resources, widely used by schools and ready to be aligned to the emerging Australian curriculum.

Projects and services completed this year supported teacher professional development, digital education, literacy and numeracy, Indigenous education, Asia literacy, mathematics, science, technology, history, civics, values, student health and wellbeing, careers, school libraries and global education. They involved collaboration with education authorities, industry, Vocational Education and Training (VET) and Higher Education, teachers, schools and professional associations.

In response to changing national policy agreements and technologies, Curriculum Corporation is preparing to consolidate with another Ministerial company, education.au, to form a new entity by July 2010 which will provide expanded, cross-sectoral national service delivery across Australia.

I would like to thank all who have contributed to Curriculum Corporation over the last twenty years. The employees deserve recognition for their professionalism and commitment, as do the personnel in all education authorities who have contributed to the success of national collaborative projects.

I would especially like to recognise the Directors, past and present, for their contribution to overseeing the effective governance of Curriculum Corporation and ensuring its responsiveness to the needs of Ministers.

Susan MANN
CEO
The Year in Review

In 2008–09, Curriculum Corporation projects supporting national priorities and policy initiatives have included curriculum development, assessment, professional learning, the production of print and digital curriculum resources and development of digital systems and services. These projects drew on expertise in curriculum development, assessment, pedagogy, instructional design, professional learning, project implementation and evaluation.

This Annual Review features some of these programs. Additional information is available at www.curriculum.edu.au

Digital Education Revolution

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.

Digital Curriculum Resources

Curriculum Corporation has managed The Learning Federation Initiative for MCEECDYA (formerly MCEETYA) since 2001. It has procured educationally sound digital curriculum resources for Australian and New Zealand schools. It has also developed standards for creating digital curriculum content and mechanisms for sharing digital curriculum content between education jurisdictions, and the VET and Higher Education sectors.

All Le@rning Federation digital curriculum content is licensed and copyright cleared so that no further charges, such as collection agency fees, are payable by either schools or school authorities.

Around 9,000 digital curriculum resources have been procured in national curriculum areas from a range of sources including partnerships with national cultural agencies.

These resources have been tested during development in over 550 schools across Australia and New Zealand and reviewed by thousands of students and teachers. Research findings on the impact of the digital curriculum resources on student engagement and learning have been provided to all jurisdictions.

In 2008–09, digital content has been procured from a broad range of sources including four jurisdictions, partnerships with 27 cultural organisations, twelve multimedia developers, seven publishers, the VET sector, and international projects. The partnership with the National Film and Sound Archive through the australianscreen online project has delivered an additional 79 film clips with teacher notes for use in schools.

The digital curriculum resources are hosted in the national digital curriculum content repository and delivered to education jurisdictions’ portals. The digital curriculum resources have also been integrated in projects including An Even Start, The Australian School Innovation in Science, Technology and Mathematics Project, Civics and Citizenship, Values Education, and Assessment for Learning.

As part of the Australian Government’s Digital Education Revolution program, Curriculum Corporation completed a review of digital curriculum resources available to schools in national curriculum areas. In 2009–10, Curriculum Corporation will continue the work established by The Le@rning Federation Initiative to provide a sustainable national digital curriculum resource supply for schools.

The Learning Federation digital curriculum resource: Interpreting changes of state
Web-based Systems

Management of large-scale national projects requires technology systems to enable speed and accuracy of operations and national reach. Curriculum Corporation has developed web-based systems to support program development, collaboration, communication and implementation. Systems are built to standards and comply with accessibility legislation.

In 2008–09, enterprise systems distributed The Le@rning Federation resources and digital content from cultural organisations to education systems, schools and teachers. Scootle, an easy to use interface, has provided direct access to the digital curriculum resources. Launched in June 2008, Scootle received 56 million hits in 2008–09. Users have viewed 1.38 million digital curriculum resources and teachers have used Scootle to create 51,000 teaching and learning resources for sharing nationally. Scootle has been implemented by the Australian Capital Territory, South Australia, Northern Territory, independent and Catholic jurisdictions, universities and in national curriculum projects including An Even Start and Values Education.

Scootle was awarded the 2008 eLearning Industry Excellence Award for eLearning Systems; the 2009 IMS Global Learning Consortium Learning Impact Bronze Award for technology to support learning; and the 2009 IMS Global Learning Consortium Learning Impact Best in Category Award for digital learning content.

In 2008–09, Curriculum Corporation developed an online application and management system for the Asia Education Foundation that will be used to administer $6.24 million of grants to schools for the Becoming Asia Literate Grants to Schools Project. The Decision Support System was used to manage school grant applications and to provide feedback to schools in the Australian School Innovation in Science, Technology and Mathematics Project, An Even Start Project and the Values Education Project. It enabled reporting, ensured accountability for funding and access to project partners and resources.

Websites

In addition to web systems, over 50 websites are hosted for education agencies and stakeholders. In 2008–09, Curriculum Corporation assisted in the design and construction of the interim National Curriculum Board and the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority websites. Consultation tools were incorporated to maximise stakeholder engagement. Website functionality includes account registration; the ability for stakeholders to upload submissions for review and publication; a mechanism to provide qualitative and quantitative feedback and facilities to convene moderated forums. Collaborative spaces for writers and curriculum advisors are available to co-create and review the Australian curriculum, as are tools to link existing digital curriculum resources to the new curriculum.
Assessment and Testing

The Australian Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs Senior Officials Committee (AEEYSOC, formerly AESOC) commissioned Curriculum Corporation to manage the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). This involved the development and delivery of the 2008 and 2009 national literacy and numeracy tests to students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

In 2008–09, Curriculum Corporation managed the central analyses of national test data that generated results for the NAPLAN Student Reports distributed in September 2008; the National Summary Report – Achievement in Literacy and Numeracy released by Ministers on 12 September 2008; and the National Report – Achievement in Literacy and Numeracy that was released by Ministers on 18 December 2008.

Two sets of national tests, in total 36 tests, were developed in 2008 in collaboration with the Australian Government, States and Territories, and the Catholic and independent sectors. The first set was the 2009 tests for reading, writing, language conventions and numeracy; the second is an equivalent set of secure tests for equating NAPLAN tests in 2009 and beyond.

Curriculum Corporation managed the contracted test development, development of national standards, quality assurance and risk management, and worked closely with State and Territory test administration authorities to ensure successful local test administration. NAPLAN tests were delivered to 11 million students nationwide on 12, 13 and 14 May 2009.

The NAPLAN website provides an online service to respond to public enquiries and access to practice questions, communication materials, the 2008 and 2009 tests, sample student reports and the National Reports. There have been 14 million hits to the NAPLAN website in 2009.

In 2008–09, the Assessment for Learning website was redesigned with increased functionality. It delivers online professional learning modules and assessment tasks that are linked to State and Territory curriculum, and underpinned by research, to assist formative assessment.

Values Education

Curriculum Corporation has worked with 51 clusters involving 309 schools through its management of the Australian Government’s Values Education Good Practice Schools Project 2005–2008. This project supported a systematic approach to values education with an emphasis on whole school ethos, curriculum, pedagogy and school-based research. The second project report At the Heart of What We Do: Values Education at the Centre of Schooling was released in December 2008. The project research findings were presented to the National Values Education Conference in 2009.

The Values in Action Schools Project (VASP) builds on the successful work of the Values Education Good Practice Schools Project. In 2008–09, 15 clusters involving 86 schools were supported to develop good practice in values education.

Resources developed by Curriculum Corporation have been published on the Values Education website, a national portal for values education. Building Values Across the Whole School: Teaching and Learning Units and Supporting Student Wellbeing Through Values Education: A Resource Package have been published and delivered to all Australian primary and secondary schools. Resources on school ethos, organisation and policies, and developing intercultural understanding will be delivered to schools in the second half of 2009.
Asia Literacy

Curriculum Corporation is a joint partner with Asialink at the University of Melbourne in the Asia Education Foundation (AEF). The AEF actively promotes Asia literacy and Asian language study.

The new AEF web portal, developed by Curriculum Corporation in 2008–09, provides easy access to digital curriculum resources, State and Territory initiatives and innovative Asian languages-focused projects. Web 2.0 applications support collaborative projects, learning communities and the national sharing of teacher-generated digital content to support teaching of Asia literacy. The portal links to the National Asian Languages and Studies in Schools Program (NALSSP) Becoming Asia Literate Grants to Schools Project.

Access Asia digital and print curriculum resources have been developed and published by Curriculum Corporation for the Asia Education Foundation. Digital resources to support Chinese, Indonesian and Japanese language have been developed and published through The Le@rning Federation Initiative. The June 2009 edition of Curriculum Corporation’s EQ Australia featured Asia literacy with articles by 20 leaders in education.

Indigenous Education

Curriculum Corporation designed, developed and published over 60 sets of curriculum resources for Charles Darwin University to accelerate literacy levels of marginalised and Indigenous students. It also developed the National Indigenous Television’s Closing the Gap Hypothetical Program resource kit for senior secondary students.

The Le@rning Federation digital curriculum resources, with a strong Indigenous education focus to support rich and diverse learning tasks, have been used in values education, mathematics, science and technology curriculum projects.

Seven cluster projects involving 44 schools worked with local Indigenous communities to develop practical resources and innovative approaches to teaching mathematics, science and technology in the Australian School Innovation in Science, Technology and Mathematics Project in 2008–09. Over 1,600 Indigenous students were involved.

Six hundred and forty Indigenous students across the 15 clusters of schools in the Values in Action Schools Project (VASP) have been involved in projects to develop values-rich pedagogies that work in Indigenous settings.

The Le@rning Federation digital curriculum resources have been distributed to teachers in remote Indigenous communities across Australia that have difficulties accessing the internet. Research on the use of The Le@rning Federation digital curriculum resources with Indigenous students found improved achievement rates, better on-task behaviour and greater engagement and motivation. The resources were found to work effectively in remote settings and to support classes with high student transience.

Copyright-cleared digital clips of Australian feature films, documentaries, archival material and television programs, complete with teacher support, have been made publicly available online through The Le@rning Federation’s australianscreen online initiative. These support inclusion of Indigenous perspectives across the mainstream curriculum.
Mathematics, Science and Technology

The Australian School Innovation in Science, Technology and Mathematics Project, funded by the Australian Government between 2004–09, has fostered a sustained culture of innovation in over 2,000 schools and 355 school clusters.

Curriculum Corporation has managed all aspects of the project including establishment, administration, quality assurance, and teaching and learning support. School cluster projects have been assisted to work in partnerships with industry, universities and the broader community. In 2008–09, 56 clusters involving 377 schools developed and implemented innovative science, mathematics and technology teaching and learning projects.

Literacy and Numeracy

Curriculum Corporation managed two projects under the Australian Government’s An Even Start – National Tuition Program. The Private Tuition Project delivered tuition services to 18,000 students across Australia whose parents opted for tuition outside of the school setting. School-based tuition was also delivered to 14,700 eligible students across all school sectors for the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Victoria.

Student registration and project administration for both programs was managed through a purpose-built online system providing tutor access to digital curriculum resources, teaching and learning strategies and advice. There have been over 150,000 unique site visits with over 88 million hits on the site content since July 2008.

Financial Literacy

In 2008–09, Curriculum Corporation managed two projects that support the National Consumer and Financial Literacy Framework. The Australian Government, in partnership with the Financial Literacy Foundation, funded the development of a professional resource that was delivered to schools in 2008 and is being used in the 2009 Australian Government Quality Teacher Program. The project website provides teachers with access to digital curriculum resources, lesson plans and professional learning resources.

The Australian Securities and Investments Commission funded the development of My Money Starter, an interactive resource that assists students in Years 9–12 to understand the key areas of superannuation and insurance. My Money Starter was awarded the 2008 eLearning Industry Excellence Award for eLearning K–12.

History, Civics and Citizenship

Curriculum Corporation has continued to develop and manage the Civics and Citizenship Education website, and its associated Parliament@Work website, on behalf of the Australian Government. These provide resources, information activities and links for teachers, students and parents involved in civics and citizenship education. Digital curriculum resources from the Civics and Citizenship Education website have been made discoverable through The Le@rning Federation.

Curriculum Corporation also developed online learning packages for the new Museum of Australian Democracy. The middle years curriculum resources focus on an enquiry-based approach to teaching the history of Australia’s Federation.
In 2008–09, Curriculum Corporation provided a range of professional, curriculum, information and technology national services to education organisations, States and Territories, schools, teachers and students.

Professional Services and Resources

In 2008–09, Curriculum Corporation developed, published and disseminated 142 new digital and print resources in areas including Asia literacy, health and wellbeing, assessment for learning, civics, values and global education. Over 85 websites were hosted and maintained to support teachers’ professional work.

Professional learning was delivered to more than 600 educators through workshops in areas including emerging technologies, mathematics, literacy and assessment. Teacher forums, workshops and the development of teaching and learning resources have been integral components of curriculum projects and assessment professional learning resources.

The 15th annual Curriculum Corporation conference: ‘21st Century Learning: Acting (Inter)Nationally’, was held in Melbourne in November 2008 and was sponsored by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Victoria. Attracting 500 education leaders (43% from schools), and led by international and national experts including Valerie Hannon, Stephen Heppell, Chris Wardlaw and Michael Stevenson, the conference explored how education contributes to policy imperatives in the new era of national cooperation, focusing on productivity and inclusivity in education, teacher and curriculum innovation, and drivers for 21st century learning. Master classes provided delegates with opportunities for in-depth exploration of the conference themes.

EQ Australia, a national subscription-based quarterly magazine with articles by leading educators published in print and e-book format, is widely distributed in schools and jurisdictions and has an estimated readership of 24,000. In 2008–09, the EQ Australia website was upgraded to include a free archive of EQ articles published since 2004. Over 300 articles are available for download.

The free online weekly Curriculum Leadership Journal covers policy and issues of interest to school leaders and reaches an estimated 6,000 readers in education institutions.

The weekly online bulletin This Week is distributed to 8,000 registered subscribers. The quarterly Connections newsletter, which features practical ideas, strategies and topical information for teacher librarians, is provided both in print and electronically to every Australian school and electronically to all New Zealand schools.
Digital Library Services

The Schools Catalogue Information Service (SCIS) is an online national service provided by Curriculum Corporation since 1999 that supports school libraries and saves considerable costs for jurisdictions. The SCIS database contains over one million catalogue records of educational materials including books, audiovisual materials, electronic resources, learning objects and websites. SCIS produces library catalogue records for all digital curriculum resources in the national pool for download to school library systems. Up to two thousand schools log on to SCIS each day and 7.4 million records were downloaded from the SCIS library service by over 10,000 school libraries in Australia and New Zealand in 2008–09.

The Schools Online Thesaurus (ScOT) was developed by Curriculum Corporation to enable national and international search and discovery of digital curriculum resources. The ScOT website and web services enable jurisdictions and education vendors who integrate ScOT within their portals to automatically update the thesaurus. ScOT is managed and updated on an ongoing basis and maintained through collaboration with national networks.

Career Services

Curriculum Corporation provides services to career advisors through the Australian Career Service (ACS) and the ACS Judith Leeson Award for Excellence in Career Teaching.

CoursePlus, the key national database that provides careers, job and course data, is jointly managed by Curriculum Corporation and Hobsons Australia. The collection provides up-to-date national data for the Australian Government and States and Territories for the MyFuture website, and for other education providers.

Global Connections

Curriculum Corporation has continued to engage in project management through partnerships with international aid agencies such as AusAID, the World Bank, UNICEF and the Asian Development Bank, as well as with complementary organisations that provide education services, projects and products both nationally and overseas. International visitors to Curriculum Corporation during 2008–09, included officials and teachers from Indonesia, Brunei, Singapore, Japan, Korea and Thailand.
Board Members as of June 2009

Dr Dable SUGGETT
Deputy Secretary, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Victoria
Commenced May 2004
Deputy of the Board, Acting Chair of the Board (November 2008–June 2009) and Chair of the Finance and Audit Sub Committee

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

Dr Evan ARTHUR
Group Manager, Digital Education Group Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
Commenced February 2008
Member of the Finance and Audit Sub Committee

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

Mr Steve CARTER
President Australian Council of State School Organisations
Commenced November 2008

Mr William DANIELS
Executive Director, Independent Schools Council of Australia
Commenced July 2001
Member of the Finance and Audit Sub Committee

Dr Evan ARTHUR
Group Manager, Digital Education Group Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
Commenced February 2008
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Mr David AXWORTHY
Executive Director, Schools Support Programs Western Australia Department of Education and Training
Commenced January 2008

Mr Steve CARTER
President Australian Council of State School Organisations
Commenced November 2008

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

Dr Brian CROKE
Executive Director Catholic Education Commission
Commenced March 2007

Mr William DANIELS
Executive Director Independent Schools Council of Australia
Commenced July 2001
Member of the Finance and Audit Sub Committee

Mr Angelo GAVRIELATOS
Federal President Australian Education Union
Commenced February 2008

Dr Kevin GILLAN
Deputy Chief Executive, Schools and Education Services Northern Territory Department of Education and Training
Commenced October 2008

Ms Julie GRANTHAM
Director-General Queensland Department of Education and Training
Commenced May 2009

Ms Jayne JOHNSTON
Executive Director, Schools ACT Department of Education and Training
Commenced June 2009

Mr Christopher ROBINSON
Chief Executive South Australia Department of Education and Childrens’ Services
Commenced October 2006

Ms Karen SEWELL
Secretary of Education New Zealand Ministry of Education
Commenced February 2007

Ms Jennifer BRANCH
President Australian Council of State School Organisations
May 2006–October 2008

Board Members who retired 2008-09

Ms Margaret BANKS
Chief Executive Northern Territory Department of Education and Training
December 2005–October 2008
Chair of the Board

Ms Rachel HUNTER
Director-General Queensland Department of Education and Training
November 2006–May 2009

Mr Craig CURRY
Executive Director ACT Department of Education and Training
October 2006–September 2008
Member of the Finance and Audit Sub Committee

Ms Joanne HOWARD
Acting Executive Director, Schools ACT Department of Education and Training
October 2008–May 2009

Ms Margaret BANKS
Chief Executive Northern Territory Department of Education and Training
December 2005–October 2008
Chair of the Board

Ms Rachel HUNTER
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Ms Jennifer BRANCH
President Australian Council of State School Organisations
May 2006–October 2008