CEO and Chair’s letter

This Annual Review provides an overview of the performance and activity of Curriculum Corporation for the 12 months to 30 June 2007.

The period has seen a strong expression of confidence by members and key stakeholders in the company’s management of complex national curriculum and assessment initiatives.

July 2006 marked the commencement of the third phase of The Le@rning Federation, a three-year project under Curriculum Corporation’s management to further develop online curriculum content for use in Australian and New Zealand schools. This work builds on the successful delivery of the five-year, second phase of this initiative.

In December 2006, the Australian Education Systems Officials Committee commissioned Curriculum Corporation to manage the delivery of the 2008 Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 national literacy and numeracy tests. Curriculum Corporation’s management of this national work is underpinned by collaboration and consultation with all education systems and sectors.

Curriculum Corporation has continued to deliver curriculum development outcomes in core areas such as literacy, numeracy, mathematics, science, civics and citizenship and history.

It has delivered professional learning services and resources to schools and supported curriculum innovation within school clusters across Australia in science and technology and in boys’ education. Development of technology systems has continued to streamline project administration and to enable distributed involvement by stakeholders, and extensive national consultation.

The Board has continued to support a strategic focus on improving student learning through the use of information and communication technologies, meeting Ministers’ curriculum and assessment priorities and achieving financial goals to ensure sustainability of services for members.

Curriculum Corporation’s employees deserve recognition for their professionalism and commitment to progressing projects throughout the year. Thanks are also due to officers in all education jurisdictions for their support and involvement in collaborative projects.

We would like to thank all Directors for their active contribution in overseeing the effective governance of the company. We would particularly like to acknowledge the contribution of two retired Board members who chaired the Board in 2006–07: Mr Ken Smith and Mr Andrew Cappie-Wood.

Susan MANN
CEO

Margaret BANKS
Chair
The Year in Review

About Curriculum Corporation

Curriculum Corporation was established in 1989 as a partnership of all Australian Education Ministers, each of whom is a member of the company. 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 and responsiveness and accountability to key stakeholders.

Since its inception, Curriculum Corporation has worked to progress the Ministers’ national goals and priorities, including the collaborative development of the national Statements of Learning to support national curriculum consistency, and the work of The Le@rning Federation to develop an extensive pool of free online content.

Curriculum Corporation delivers curriculum and assessment resources and services in areas of national significance such as science, vocational education and training in schools, civics and values, careers, the environment, global education, literacy and numeracy, studies of Asia, student health and wellbeing, assessment, boys’ education, early childhood education, and information and communication technologies.

Curriculum Corporation is strengthened by its extensive networks with education systems and sectors, industry, the teaching profession, professional associations and education peak bodies and agencies, both national and international. Its value lies in its capacity to support stakeholders in collaborating and reaching agreement on large-scale national education projects.

National Curriculum Consistency

Curriculum Corporation has been at the forefront of work to support greater national curriculum consistency. Supporting collaboration among States, Territories and the Australian Government, Curriculum Corporation managed the development of the Statements of Learning for English, science, mathematics, civics and citizenship and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). The Statements of Learning define the knowledge, skills, understandings and capacities that all young Australians, no matter where they live, should have the opportunity to acquire. They form the basis of achieving Ministers’ aims of greater consistency among curriculums and represent a significant step forward for Australia, providing the first nationally agreed curriculum statements. The Statements will be implemented within State and Territory curriculums from 2008.

Curriculum Corporation is linking resources with the Statements of Learning. In The Le@rning Federation, the Statements have been used, along with an analysis of national assessment data, to identify areas where students show lower levels of achievement. Multimedia learning and assessment resources are being developed to aid student learning and engagement in those areas.

Curriculum Corporation’s experience in developing the Statements of Learning positions it well to support collaboration among education systems as they move towards greater curriculum consistency.
Digital Curriculum Content and Services

Curriculum Corporation supports the Ministers’ desire that schools, teachers and students be confident and discriminating users of information and communication technologies.

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 for curriculum and assessment projects. Interactive digital multimedia resources were developed to support projects in environmental education, languages other than English and civics and citizenship education.

This year saw the commencement of the third phase of The Le@rning 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.

Significant progress towards meeting the targets set by the Ministers was achieved in 2006–07. National agreement has been reached on the curriculum priorities for content procurement in English/literacy, mathematics/numeracy, science, civics and citizenship and languages other than English. There is a focus on content for the early and senior years of schooling and for students with English as a second language, and on meeting specific requirements of Indigenous communities.

In 2006–07, approximately 1,500 items of new content which align with the Statements of Learning and address areas of student underperformance were published. The technical systems which make the content accessible to education jurisdictions and manage the intellectual property rights management have both reached maturity.

Strong relationships have been forged with cultural and public organisations to enable access by the schools sector to Australia and New Zealand’s rich cultural materials. Curriculum Corporation has continued a partnership with the Australian Film Commission in the australianscreen online project to provide copyright-free access to more than 600 film clips.

An independent evaluation of the impact, application and effectiveness of The Le@rning Federation online curriculum in 2006–07 has demonstrated that students’ learning improved when using learning objects and that the content provided stimulating and diverse learning experiences for students.

The Le@rning Federation online resources have been integrated into a range of curriculum project areas, including boys’ education, science, technology and mathematics, electoral education, languages other than English, studies of Asia and global education.
Assessment and Testing

On 1 December 2006, the Australian Education Systems Officials Committee commissioned Curriculum Corporation to manage the delivery of the 2008 Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 national literacy and numeracy tests. During the first half of 2007 the item development and trialling was completed, together with the establishment of national protocols and the management of the provision of national testing services for the non-government sector and schools.

Curriculum Corporation also delivered testing and assessment services in other areas, providing item development and trialling, test construction, test logistics, invigilation, data analysis, report generation and performance feedback.

The Multilevel Assessment Program (MAP) test was managed on behalf of the Northern Territory, with the 2006 test conducted in August 2006 and preparation for the 2007 test undertaken. Test items were also developed for the Victorian Achievement Improvement Monitor (AIM).

Curriculum Corporation, in partnership with Educational Assessment Australia, delivered the National Assessment Program – Science Literacy, a collaborative undertaking of the States, Territories and the Australian Government aimed at measuring student performance in science literacy. The test was successfully conducted in October 2006.

In 2006–07, the Assessment for Learning project produced two two-hour DVDs, Effective feedback and Peer feedback and student self-assessment, which include video clips of interviews with teachers and students, classroom footage and annotated examples of written feedback. The DVDs also contain workshops and worksheets for professional development. All PDF material is now available on the Assessment for Learning website (http://cms.curriculum.edu.au/assessment/).
Curriculum Projects

Curriculum Corporation manages collaborative projects in many areas where student performance or other research indicates a need, or where there may be a gap in curriculum or resource provision. This requires an innovative and creative approach that draws on expertise in curriculum development, assessment, pedagogy, instructional design, business analysis, professional learning, implementation and evaluation.

The projects are 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. They are often secured through public tender.

In 2006–07 there was activity in more than 150 projects, encompassing print, digital and online resources.

Throughout 2006–07, Curriculum Corporation continued to manage large-scale Australian Government grants projects for schools to develop and promote improvement in literacy, science, mathematics and technology, and boys’ education, values education and careers education. These projects brought the company in direct contact with thousands of schools. They enabled innovation, research and professional learning at the school level, often linking schools with universities or other agencies, such as the CSIRO, to bring the latest knowledge and teaching practices into the classroom.

Examples of national curriculum projects in 2006–07 include:

- **Values education** » identifying and disseminating good practice; developing curriculum and professional learning resources
- **Australian Schools Innovation in Science, Technology and Mathematics (ASISTM)** » encouraging a culture of innovation; improving coordination between primary and secondary school curriculums; promoting sustainable change in learning and teaching
- **Civics and citizenship education** » providing opportunities for active student engagement; developing online resources; connecting networked communities to support professional learning and good practice
- **Success for Boys (boys’ education)** » supporting 1,600 schools across Australia to deliver a teacher professional learning program and implement local school programs
- **MindMatters** » supporting student and staff wellbeing through learning resources and connected school communities
- **Literacy** » managing provision of tuition to middle primary students who did not reach the Year 3 reading benchmark in 2006; developing a reading assistance kit (RAK) to support tutors; providing instructional design for the National Accelerated Literacy Program resources
- **Early childhood education** » developing digital and print early childhood literacy and numeracy resources for parents and practitioners
- **Languages other than English** » developing digital and print resources to support the learning of languages and promote intercultural understanding
- **Studies of Asia** » supporting and encouraging school engagement with Asia through the curriculum as joint owners of the Asia Education Foundation with Asialink at the University of Melbourne
- **Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)** » developing curriculum resources and associated teacher professional learning about the importance of sustainable and cooperative trade and economic development in our region
- **Energy efficiency in the curriculum in other school programs** » producing a research report for the National Framework for the Energy Efficiency Consumer Information Working Group
- **CoursePlus** » building and licensing the most extensive database of job and course data in Australia to enable effective career management
- **National Training Information Service** » managing the national database of courses, qualifications, training packages, units of competency and registered training organisations for the Vocational and Technical Education (VTE) sector
- **Professional learning** » delivering the 2006 Quality Teacher Programme national forum and publication to support teacher professional learning in priority curriculum areas
- **Careers** » managing the provision of scholarships to careers advisers to improve the quality of careers information to students
- **Global education** » supporting understanding of global issues though the global education website and resources.
Professional Services and Resources

Curriculum Corporation publishes and distributes professional resources for educators. During the 2006–07 year, 40 digital and print resources were added to the CurriculumPress range. Products are underpinned by sound teaching pedagogy and understanding of the curriculum. Content addressed issues such as the ‘thinking curriculum’, values education, learning styles, middle years, early years, Indigenous education, student wellbeing and studies of Asia, as well as covering literacy, numeracy and specific learning areas.

Professional services undertaken included promotional, warehousing and distribution activities, and the management of professional development seminars for teachers.

National journals published include EQ Australia, a quarterly magazine with articles by leading educators, and the online journal, Curriculum Leadership. In 2006–07, editions of EQ Australia focused on wellbeing and connectedness, innovation in education, early childhood education and care, and careers and transition. Curriculum Leadership published 40 online editions in 2006–07, covering policy and topical issues of interest to school leaders, and This Week also published 40 weekly online bulletins for educators. The quarterly Connections newsletter, which provides practical ideas, strategies and topical information for teacher librarians, was provided to every school in 2006–07.

The Curriculum Corporation Conference is held annually and contributes to shaping national curriculum issues and debates. In 2006 the conference was held in Adelaide with the theme, A vision splendid – ICT: research, pedagogy, implementation for schools, attracting more than 500 educators from across Australia and overseas. Led by international and Australian experts in the field, including Professor James Paul Gee, Jeremy Roschelle, Professor John Hedberg and Professor Peter Freebody, the conference explored recent trends and factors critical to embedding information and communication technologies in curriculum and schooling. Speakers and delegates reflected on innovative approaches to ICT integration, together with controversial and thoughtful research in this field. Planning commenced for the 2007 conference, 21st Century Curriculum: Taking Bearings, to be held in Sydney in November 2007.
Digital Library Services
Curriculum Corporation’s Schools Cataloguing and Information Service (SCIS) database has minimised the need for cataloguing in school libraries throughout Australasia, substantially reducing costs to schools and education jurisdictions. At the end of 2006–07, SCIS for the first time featured more than one million catalogue records of educational materials, including a large variety of non-book materials, over 2,000 TLF learning objects and almost 10,000 websites. Over eight million SCIS records were provided to individual schools in Australia and New Zealand during the year.

The Schools Online Thesaurus (ScOT) supports education jurisdictions in applying educational metadata to facilitate the discovery of 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. The education and pedagogy content build of ScOT was incorporated into the SCIS database at the end of June 2007.

Global Connections
Curriculum Corporation engages 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 overseas.

Links have also been established with international education agencies to identify world’s best practice and promote Australia’s educational achievements. Curriculum Corporation’s international standing was reflected in a number of visits by international delegations during 2006–07, including officials from Malaysia, Colombia, Indonesia, Mexico and Korea.

Recognition
Surveys across projects in 2006–07 demonstrated Curriculum Corporation’s commitment to client responsiveness, quality, project management and value for money. Over 96% of clients indicated that they would recommend Curriculum Corporation’s services to other organisations, with an average overall client satisfaction rating of 4.3 on a five-point scale.

The following educational publishing awards were won by Curriculum Corporation resources during 2006–07:

- National architecture awards (RAIA, PIA, AILA)
- 2006 Australia Award for Urban Design Education
- NSW President’s Award » 2006 Planning Institute of Australia NSW Awards for Excellence in Planning Award for Planning Scholarship, Research or Teaching
- 2006 Planning Institute of Australia NSW Awards for Excellence in Planning
- NSW Urban Development Industry Awards » Public Sector Leadership for Urban Development award.

Projects conducted in 2006–07 included:

- Iran » Teacher Training Module Development
- Latin America » Scoping Study for Latin American Education Kit
- China » Exploring New Areas in Technical Vocational Education and Training
- Samoa » National Teacher Development Framework
- Indonesia » Planning Program Delivery for Islamic Higher Education Institutions.
Board Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position and Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ms Margaret BANKS</td>
<td>Chief Executive, NT Department of Employment, Education and Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Commenced December 2005, Chair of the Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Jennifer BRANCH</td>
<td>President, Australian Council of State School Organisations Inc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Commenced May 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Mike COUTTS-TROTTER</td>
<td>Director-General, NSW Department of Education and Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Commenced April 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Michele CROKE</td>
<td>Executive Director, National Catholic Education Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Commenced March 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Patricia BYRNE</td>
<td>Federal President, Australian Education Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Commenced May 2005, Member of the Finance and Audit Committee, Member of the Strategic Planning Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Jan ANDREWS</td>
<td>Acting Chief Executive, SA Department of Education and Children’s Services March 2006 – September 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Jennifer BRANCH</td>
<td>President, Australian Council of State School Organisations Inc March 2006 – August 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Michele BRUNIGES</td>
<td>Chief Executive Officer, ACT Department of Education and Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Commenced March 2005, August 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Christine COOK</td>
<td>Acting Executive Director, Curriculum Standards, WA Department of Education and Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Commenced September 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Andrew CAPPE-WOOD</td>
<td>Director General, NSW Department of Education and Training July 2004 – April 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chair of the Board from November 2006 to March 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Brian CROKE</td>
<td>Executive Director, National Catholic Education Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Commenced March 2007</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional information for each individual is included as needed.
Mr Craig CURRY  
Executive Director,  
ACT Department of Education and Training  
Commenced October 2006

Ms Karen SEWELL  
Secretary for Education,  
New Zealand Ministry of Education  
Commenced November 2005  
Chair of the Board from November 2005 to November 2006

Mr Kenneth SMITH  
Director General,  
Qld Department of Education and the Arts  
Commenced May 2003 – November 2006

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

Ms Margaret MCKINNON  
Group Manager – Schools Resourcing Group,  
Department of Education, Science & Training, Australian Government  
Commenced May 2007  
Member of the Audit and Finance Committee

Professor Jennifer NICOL  
Provost, University of Notre Dame, National Catholic Education Commission  
September 2006 – March 2007

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

Mr Howard FANCY  
Chief Executive,  
New Zealand Ministry of Education  
October 1996 – February 2007

Mr Christopher EVANS  
Group Manager – Schools Group, Department of Education, Science and Training, Australian Government  
May 2004 – August 2006

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

Ms Ewen MCDONALD  
Group Manager – Schools Group, Department of Education, Science & Training, Australian Government  
November 2006 – May 2007

Mr Ewen MCDONALD  
Group Manager – Schools Group, Department of Education, Science & Training, Australian Government  
November 2006 – May 2007

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

Mr Howard FANCY  
Chief Executive,  
New Zealand Ministry of Education  
October 1996 – February 2007

Ms Susan PASCOE  
Executive Director,  
Catholic Education Commission of Victoria  
April 2004 – August 2006

Ms Margaret MCKINNON  
Group Manager – Schools Resourcing Group,  
Department of Education, Science & Training, Australian Government  
Commenced May 2007  
Member of the Audit and Finance Committee

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

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

Professor Jennifer NICOL  
Provost, University of Notre Dame, National Catholic Education Commission  
September 2006 – March 2007

Ms Ewen MCDONALD  
Group Manager – Schools Group, Department of Education, Science & Training, Australian Government  
November 2006 – May 2007

Ms Margaret MCKINNON  
Group Manager – Schools Resourcing Group,  
Department of Education, Science & Training, Australian Government  
Commenced May 2007  
Member of the Audit and Finance Committee

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

Mr Howard FANCY  
Chief Executive,  
New Zealand Ministry of Education  
October 1996 – February 2007

Ms Susan PASCOE  
Executive Director,  
Catholic Education Commission of Victoria  
April 2004 – August 2006

Mr Kenneth SMITH  
Director General,  
Qld Department of Education and the Arts  
May 2003 – November 2006

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

Mr Craig CURRY  
Executive Director,  
ACT Department of Education and Training  
Commenced October 2006

Ms Karen SEWELL  
Secretary for Education,  
New Zealand Ministry of Education  
Commenced November 2005  
Chair of the Board from November 2005 to November 2006

Mr Kenneth SMITH  
Director General,  
Qld Department of Education and the Arts  
Commenced May 2003 – November 2006

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

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

Mr Christopher EVANS  
Group Manager – Schools Group, Department of Education, Science and Training, Australian Government  
May 2004 – August 2006