

## Years 9-12 Project

# Overview - Focus Areas of the Years 9 to 12 Curriculum Framework

January 2020 - Please refer to the [infosheets](#) and [background papers](#) for more information.

## Context

This document unpacks the five Focus Areas of the Years 9 to 12 Curriculum Framework, which in itself was developed using the principles of the Years 9 to 12 Education Framework. The goal of the Years 9 to 12 Education Framework is to improve the rates of attendance, retention, attainment and completion for Tasmanian students in Years 9 to 12. The Years 9 to 12 Education Framework principles of Access, Agency, Excellence, Balance, Support and Achievement ensure that all learners are able to form clear pathway choices that are suited to their interests, needs and aspirations. The Years 9 to 12 Curriculum Framework seeks to engage a greater number of learners through innovative approaches to course design and delivery.

## Current State

For the past three decades, Tasmanian senior secondary schools have largely selected from a VET/academic dichotomy when designing and offering learning programs for students. This has left a systemic gap in curriculum provision for a significant cohort of learners who are now required to complete Year 12 (Education Act, 2016).

The relative merits of this construct have been the subject of much discussion and some significant policy and legislative reforms over this period, culminating in the ACER Review of Years 9 to 12 in Tasmania. This report recommended that the curriculum be reviewed and updated to become future-focused in order to better meet the needs of Tasmanian students.

## Evidence Base For Change

To inform thinking and guide directions for change, the Years 9 to 12 Project team has consulted widely. The research has included, but is not limited to, the following sources:

- ACER Review of Years 9 to 12 in Tasmania: Final Report (2016)
- Years 9 to 12 Project Workshops Report (2018)
- The Alice Springs (Mparntwe) Declaration (2019)
- Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA): The Australian Curriculum
- All Australian education jurisdictions as well as a range of Australian institutions considered to be individual examples of best practice
- Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Learning Framework 2030
- The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- A range of international jurisdictions and institutions considered to be individual examples of best practice including Ontario, Hong Kong, Singapore and Switzerland
- Prominent current academics writing on the future shape of education such as Gonski, Masters, Reid
- Input from Dr. Peter Hill, critical friend for the Years 9 to 12 Project
- Tasmania school leaders, teachers and students across all sectors.

# Future State

The future-focused Years 9 to 12 Curriculum Framework establishes five equally valued Focus Areas:

- Discipline-based Study
- Transdisciplinary Projects
- Professional Studies
- Work-based Learning
- Personal Futures

The Framework also highlights *Valued practices and concepts* and *Areas for consideration*. This agile, streamlined curriculum provides an inclusive and equitable quality education and promotes lifelong learning for all.

The Years 9 to 12 Curriculum Framework provides both depth and breadth of curriculum provision options for schools, suited to their cohort of learners and their identified interests, needs and aspirations. The Australian Curriculum General Capabilities and Cross-Curriculum Priorities will inform the development of considered, focused content as appropriate.

