

Education Council

22 February 2019

Communiqué

Forum to discuss a review of the Melbourne Declaration

Education Council Ministers have commenced a review of the national declaration on educational goals for young Australians, which sets out the national purposes and role of learning to deliver a high-quality education for every student.

The future of education in Australia was discussed at a special forum in Melbourne with 11 Ministers and 54 delegates from across all education sectors, young Australians, parents, industry and union representatives and education academics.

The national declaration on educational goals, otherwise known as the Melbourne Declaration, was endorsed by all Australian Education Ministers in 2008.

Participants at the forum acknowledged the Melbourne Declaration had provided a solid framework and shared vision for education policy and initiatives for all Australian governments and the sector since 2008. It has helped provide the focal point for a joint commitment from all governments to work collaboratively.

Significant achievements in education over the last ten years have included the introduction of the:

- Australian Curriculum
- National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education and Care
- Australian Professional Standards for Teachers and Australian Professional Standard for Principals
- National Assessment Program and associated national reporting.

Ministers agree that much of the content of the Melbourne Declaration is still relevant and supported by stakeholders. On this basis, the intent of a contemporary declaration will remain the same. Improvements will be considered to modernise the declaration and reflect:

- the factors that impact on the success of education
- the changing nature of education, the economy and work
- the place of learning within broader society
- the importance of early learning
- the increasing need for lifelong learning
- a renewed focus on equity and embracing diversity
- the importance of smooth transitions and appropriate learning pathways.

Further consultations on the next iteration of the national education declaration will occur over the course of 2019 including engagement with children and young people.

Individuals can register their interest in the consultations at <http://www.educationcouncil.edu.au/Review-of-the-Melbourne-Declaration.aspx>.