

A4 Outlook

Achieving successful outcomes and helping children and young people reach their full potential are key drivers in everything we do.

Our Strategic Plan provides the vision for our work. It articulates our four focus areas: learning and teaching; school environment; transitions and pathways; and corporate leadership, and the priorities that underpin these goals.

The Directorate will undertake a range of activities in each of these areas during 2011-12. These include:

Learning and teaching

- continue providing practical support to schools to implement Phase 1 learning areas of the Australian Curriculum
- contribute to consultation on Phase 2 of the Australian Curriculum covering geography, languages and the arts for kindergarten to year 12
- develop best practice exemplars that can be shared with other schools, including school-wide curriculum plans and units of work
- provide high quality professional development for teachers particularly where the Australian Curriculum differs from the current curriculum
- measure and report on literacy and numeracy achievement in all our schools and provide targeted support to raise standards
- implement Smarter Schools National Partnerships
- continue implementation of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Matters: Strategic Plan 2010-2013*

School environment

- implement the *Excellence in Disability Education in ACT Public Schools: Strategic Plan 2010-2013*
- garner community support to implement programs aimed at creating safe and supportive learning environments for all students, staff, helpers, parents and visitors
- strengthen partnerships with other government agencies to ensure a co-ordinated approach to environmental sustainability
- increase teachers' and school leaders' capabilities to use digital technology to improve student learning
- continue the implementation of the Connected Learning Communities virtual learning environment
- implement improved governance for ICT

Student pathways and transitions

- implement the Early Childhood Reform Agenda
- implement a communication and professional development strategy for school leaders and early childhood teachers
- implement teacher scholarships to support the upgrading of qualifications to meet new standards
- continue with implementation of Training and Tertiary Education reforms to improve business processes to support stakeholders
- prioritise and implement agreed actions from the *Excellence and Enterprise - Advancing Public Schools of Distinction* report under each key theme:
 - advancing distinctive public secondary schools
 - flexibility, pathways and partnerships
 - strengthening the system
- further develop strategies to increase student attendance rates to ensure all young people are fully engaged in learning and being part of society

Leadership and corporate development

- finalise and implement a school leaders' strategy to ensure strong and sustainable leadership in our schools
- improve access to school data including the establishment of the ACT's Our Schools Online website
- build capacity in the use of data to assist improved school performance and planning
- continue the implementation of greater school-based autonomy
- focus on evaluation, including partnering with research bodies and strengthening the evidence base to support the implementation of outcomes for children and young people.

We have an ambitious work program to complete in 2011-12. In addition, the Directorate is required to achieve an efficiency saving of \$2.7m during the year. This saving, which was identified in the ACT Budget 2011-12, is part of a whole of government savings initiative. We are confident that our management team and planning approaches will enable us to achieve our work plan whilst delivering the required savings.