



THE HON PETER GARRETT MP
Minister for School Education, Early Childhood and Youth

MEDIA RELEASE

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Delay in Australian Curriculum will disadvantage NSW students

The NSW Coalition Government is jeopardising the education of the state's students by walking away from its agreement to substantially implement phase one of the Australian Curriculum by the end of 2013, School Education Minister Peter Garrett said today.

"The NSW Education Minister should stop blaming the Commonwealth for his decision to delay a commitment the NSW Government signed up for in December last year," he said.

"Mr Piccoli needs to explain to the parents of NSW why two and half years is not enough time to implement the curriculum. All other states and territories have agreed to have substantially implemented the first phase by the end of 2013.

"NSW agreed to this timetable last year, and Mr Piccoli reaffirmed that agreement just a few weeks ago at a meeting of all state and territory education ministers.

"There is no justifiable reason for this eleventh hour back down.

'All states and territories have agreed that it is their responsibility to implement the new curriculum, not the Australian Government's.

"The Australian Curriculum is a forward-looking and world-class curriculum that will benefit Australian students, families and teachers. The new curriculum will be the highest quality curriculum in the country so to claim that there are concerns over content is just a smokescreen.

"Mr Piccoli needs to get on with the job he signed up for – otherwise NSW school students will be a year behind the rest of the country."

Mr Garrett said the Gillard Government has invested almost \$20 billion in school education in NSW in the past four years, as well as more than \$100 million to help introduce the Australian Curriculum.

"We've provided record funding for teacher training including the \$550 million Improving Teacher Quality National Partnership and \$16 million for the ICT Innovation Fund to help teachers better use ICT in the classroom. We've also been working on a professional learning program to support teachers and other staff with the implementation of the Australian Curriculum at the school level," he said.

"Mr Piccoli's claims that there hasn't been adequate support are just plain wrong."

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