



Speech by

Hon. D. WELLS

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Hansard 11 November 1999

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Years 1 to 10 Queensland Curriculum

Hon. D. M. WELLS (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Education) (9.47 a.m.), by leave: Queensland schools are on the threshold of a new era of learning with the launch today of the first phase of the new Years 1-10 Queensland curriculum. The new curriculum development process under the auspices of the Queensland School Curriculum Council has brought together State, Catholic and Independent schooling authorities to develop collaboratively a common curriculum for Queensland students. This curriculum, encompassing the eight key learning areas recognised in the national goals of schooling, promises more relevant subject matter and more collaborative learning involving teachers, students and the community. It will be a resource of great value for all schools in Queensland.

Later today I will launch the syllabuses for science and health and physical education. These are the first of a series of syllabuses and associated curriculum materials being produced by the council. They are the result of an extensive program of research and development as well as widespread consultation with school communities across Queensland. In responding to the technological changes and unique futures faced by students today, the curriculum promotes life skills such as personal development, social, citizenship and self-management skills. There has been a deliberate attempt to adopt a futures perspective in all areas.

At the same time the curriculum also recognises the importance for all learning areas to reinforce and support the development of literacy and numeracy skills. In accordance with an outcomes approach to education, the new syllabuses are presented in terms of intended learning outcomes, that is, they identify what students should know and be able to do in the particular learning area. The syllabuses also recognise that learning outcomes cannot be achieved in a content-free environment. Accordingly, they have specifically identified the core content that students will need to address to demonstrate the core learning outcomes in the syllabus.

The syllabuses acknowledge that the sequencing of the content across the years of schooling is a decision best left with the relevant school authorities. Education Queensland has responded on behalf of State schools by preparing Statements of Content which identify an appropriate sequencing of the core content across Years 1 to 10, and accordingly provide a basis for greater curriculum consistency across its schools. It is expected that all students across Queensland will be provided with opportunities to demonstrate the same outcomes. The route by which they arrive at those outcomes, however, may be very different.

A contemporary feature of this curriculum will be its electronic delivery to schools. The syllabuses, source books and in-service materials will all be able to be accessed electronically. The remaining six syllabuses covering the areas of languages other than English, study of society and environment, technology, the arts, English and mathematics will be available to Queensland schools over the next three years.
