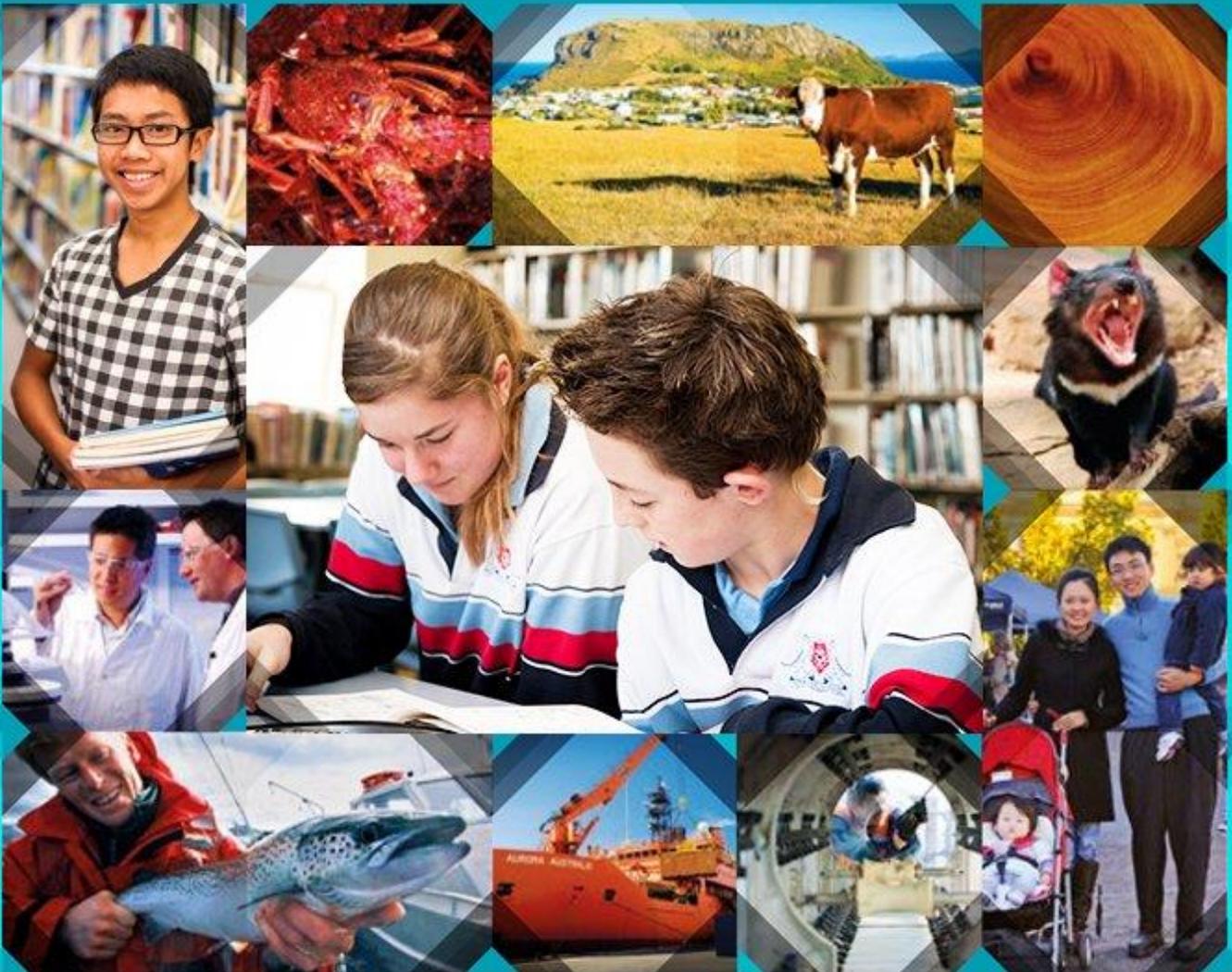


Department of Education

Learners first, connected and inspired

Engaging with Asia Strategy 2013 - 2015



1. Introduction

The White Paper: *Tasmania's Place in the Asian Century* positions Tasmania to take advantage of the next great wave of Asian demand. It establishes the policy framework that will shape the Government's efforts to support the state's engagement with Asia over the next 10 years.¹ It indicates that an educated and skilled workforce is a key capability in raising productivity. Separate strategies that focus on improving educational outcomes, literacy and numeracy, transition between primary and high school years and retention to Year 12 have been developed for continued implementation.

This strategy focusses on the opportunities and key priorities which relate to both curriculum implementation and opportunities for Tasmanian and international students in the school system, which will enable awareness and understanding of the importance of Asia to our future and the value of engaging with Asian literacy.

Implementation of the **Australian Curriculum** provides a context and impetus for schools to embed Asia literacy within the curriculum.

- The Cross Curriculum Priority: *Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia* provides a regional context for learning across the curriculum.
- The General Capability of *Intercultural Understanding* is an essential part of living with others in the diverse world of the twenty-first century. It assists young people to become responsible local and global citizens, equipped through their education for living and working together in an interconnected world.
- In each of the learning areas, particularly Asian languages, there is reference to Asia delivered through the content descriptions, elaborations and achievement standards.

Under the **Early Years Learning Framework for Australia**, implementation of Principle 4: *Respect for Diversity* and the Practice of *Cultural Competence* will assist all children to make progress in relation to each of the learning outcomes.

The previous Australian Government White Paper: *Australia in the Asian Century* identified opportunities to guide national planning for Australia's engagement with Asia as our country deals with potential changes and challenges. This document considered the current and future course of economic and social issues and assisted in shaping a national position.

¹ Tasmania's Place in the Asian Century White Paper, March 2013

2. Background

This strategy will address directions and priorities resulting from the Department of Education's (DoE) *Learners First 2014-17 Strategy*, the new driver of the Australian Curriculum, and the focus provided by the Tasmanian and Australian Governments' White Papers on the Asian Century. It also relates to Outcome 2 of the Early Years Learning Framework which is used in schools, Child and Family Centres and Launching into Learning programs. The resulting implementation will enable long term cultural and language programs to be developed which build on previous curriculum work and funding initiatives and enable improved student understanding and knowledge of Asia and Asia literacy and its importance to Tasmania.

This document is the Tasmanian Department of Education's plan for increasing a focus on Asia literacy through the curriculum in Tasmanian schools and services. An operational plan will be developed to support the action areas outlined on page 6.

3. Scope

The scope of this strategy includes all children, students, teachers, principals and leaders in Tasmanian government schools and services Birth to Year 12.

4. Definitions

Asia Literacy:

Asia literacy is the knowledge, skills and understandings of the histories, geographies, literatures, arts, cultures and languages of the diverse countries of the Asian region.²

5. Organisational Objectives

The DoE Strategic Plan aims to 'provide every Tasmanian with the opportunity to continue to learn and reach their potential, to lead fulfilling and productive lives and to contribute positively to the community'.

The key drivers for this strategy are:

Successful Learners: *Engage and retain students through creative, innovative and supportive learning programs and environments.*

Empowered Leadership: *Equip leaders with the skills to manage and encourage innovation and continuous improvement.*

The key values underpinning the strategy are:

Excellence: *We have high expectation for our learners and a strong commitment to the pursuit of excellence and innovation in our people, in our programs, and in our resources.*

² http://www.asiaeducation.edu.au/verve/_resources/Building_Demand_Report.pdf

Relationships: *We achieve growth and strength through partnerships and connections with our learners, their communities and the world.*

The priority which relates to this strategy is:

Great Schools... Great Communities: *Enable students to successfully develop 21st Century competencies as an integral part of K-12 curriculum implementation through the Early Years Learning Framework and the Australian Curriculum.*

6. Key Priorities

There are five broad action areas of the strategy:

1. Implementation of the **Australian Curriculum** with a focus on *Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia*
2. Building **leadership** support through professional learning and cross cultural engagement
3. Building **teacher** capacity through professional learning and cross cultural engagement
4. Stimulating **student** engagement with Asian culture and languages
5. Involving **parents, communities and other key stakeholders** in supporting Asia in the curriculum.

7. Key Stakeholders and Partners

- Tasmanian Government Schools and Colleges
- The Department of Education, Curriculum Services
- Professional Learning Institute
- Government Education and Training International (GETI)
- The Asia Education Foundation (AEF)
- The Tasmania Asia Network
- Professional associations and networks
- University of Tasmania
- Parents and the community

8. Co-ordination and management

The Asia Strategy is managed through Curriculum Services. An operational plan will be developed to support the following key action areas.

9. Key Action Areas to support the objectives:

<p>1. Curriculum Implementation</p>	<p>Australian Curriculum: Support schools by providing opportunities to embed studies of Asia through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The cross curriculum priority - <i>Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia</i> b) The general capability - <i>Intercultural Understanding</i> c) All learning areas, particularly Languages d) To develop and share a whole-school model of implementation of the Australian Curriculum (F – 10) focussing on Asia <p>Early Years Learning Framework - implementation of Principle 4: <i>Respect for Diversity and the Practice of Cultural Competence</i></p>
<p>2. Building leadership support through professional learning and cross-cultural engagement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tasmania Asia Network: Support principals and school leaders by expanding the existing network and connecting with other relevant initiatives and resources • Professional Learning Institute: Embed Asia literacy in curriculum leadership programs and establish Asia focus program linked to AITSL standards • Asia Education Foundation: Promote participation in AEF supported initiatives, such as the <i>Leading 21 C</i> program and study tours • Develop co-ordination mechanisms for, and collect data about, the range of cross-country relationships and delivery opportunities, existing and planned.
<p>3. Building teacher capacity through professional learning and cross-cultural engagement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tasmania Asia Network: Support teachers by expanding the existing network and connecting with other relevant initiatives • In-country PL experiences: Promote opportunities to participate in funded and self-funded study tours, including AEF Study Tours • Professional Learning Institute: Develop Asia focussed programs linked to AITSL standards • Australian Government Initiatives: Engage with DEEWR Asia-focussed initiatives and Endeavour Scholarships • BRIDGE: AEF Promote cross-cultural engagement between Tasmanian and Asian schools • Provide guidance in collaboration with GETI on establishing formal 'sister school' relationships
<p>4. Stimulating student engagement with Asian culture and languages</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eLearning: Promote student learning and school linkages using interactive technologies • Develop course pathways and transition points (K-12) • Specialist Languages Provision: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Support and expand online learning of Asian languages through curriculum services eLearning programs b) Continue support of the Primary Languages Program, transition points and promoting a focus on Asian languages • Education Services Australia (ESA): Support and promote the <i>Language Learning Space</i> through <i>Welink</i> – video conferencing platform – and <i>Mimel</i> – spoken language practice • In collaboration with GETI publicise student in-country study and exchange programs and capitalise on the relationships established with international students
<p>5. Involving parents, community and other key stakeholders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a communication strategy for parents to develop support for Asia literacy • Support GETI to develop the international education sector eg by increasing overseas Tasmanian education delivery, sister school relationships and inbound students. • Build partnerships with UTAS (both Education and Humanities) • Build relationships with local ethnic community groups • Encourage school/community local cultural events • Maintain relationship with AEF • Consider establishing connections with other key stakeholders

10. Resource Information

This strategy will be implemented within the existing scope of Department of Education resources and with support of grants from other sources, including the AEF. Implementation of the Asia strategy will be linked to:

- the Australian Curriculum and associated resources, as they are developed;
- the Early Years Learning Framework and associated resources; and
- relevant programs, initiatives and research that may be developed during the life of the strategy.

11. Associated Documents

- [What Works 2 Report Asia Education Foundation](#)
- [The Australian Curriculum](#)
- [The Tasmanian Curriculum in Schools Policy](#)
- [Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia](#)
- [National Statement on Asia Literacy in Australian Schools 2011-2012: AEF](#)
- [Building Demand for Asia Literacy in Australian Schools : AEF](#)
- [Developing an Asia Capable Workforce: A National Strategy: Asia Link – University of Melbourne](#)
- [The White Paper: Australia in the Asian Century](#)
- [The White Paper: Tasmania’s Place in the Asian Century](#)
- [AITSL Teacher and Principal Standards](#)
- [Asia Literacy and the Australian Teaching Workforce](#)

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