

DECISIONS BY THE BOARD OF STUDIES MEETING MAY 4, 2004

1. The draft registration manuals and their accompanying forms.

The Board agreed that, pursuant to the Boards rule making powers under section 131 of the Education Act, the Registered and Accredited Non-government Individual Schools (NSW) Manual and the Registration Systems and Member Non-Government Schools (NSW) Manual should be forwarded to the Deputy Premier for approval. The Board further agreed that Forms 1-5 that accompany the Registered and Accredited Non-government Individual Schools (NSW) Manual and Forms 6-10 that accompany the Registration Systems and Member Non-Government Schools (NSW) Manual should be approved, subject to the Deputy Premiers approval of the respective Manuals.

2. Studies of Religion Stage 6.

The Board agreed that the Studies of Religion Board Curriculum Committee should reconsider the Stage 6 Studies of Religion Draft Writing Brief and the course structures, ensuring that there are at least two religious tradition depth studies of equal length in the HSC courses of Studies of Religion I and Studies of Religion II.

3. Principles for examination and assessment in HSC syllabuses.

The Board agreed that the document should be distributed for further consultation with school systems and selected schools, with a report back to the next meeting.

4. Alternative Prescribed Text for the 2005 HSC Stage 6 Spanish Extension Course.

The Board agreed that the novel *Los cachorros* should be approved as an alternative prescribed text for the above course for the 2005 HSC.

5. Photographic and Digital Media Years 7-10 Syllabus.

The Board noted the consultation report for the above draft syllabus and agreed that the syllabus should be endorsed and forwarded to the Deputy Premier for approval.

6. Visual Design Years 7-10 Syllabus.

The Board noted the consultation report for the above draft syllabus and agreed that the syllabus should be endorsed and forwarded to the Deputy Premier for approval.

7. Evaluation of the Board of Studies Syllabus Development Process.

The Board agreed that it needed more information about the process for this evaluation and that a report should be prepared for its next meeting.

8. *Alcohol Education in the Personal Development, Health and Physical Education Curriculum.*

The Board agreed that Board member Dr Alan Laughlin should chair a group comprising representatives from the Office of the Board of Studies, Department of Education and Training, the non-government school sector and parent bodies to explore this matter further.

9. *Environmental education and sustainability in the curriculum.*

The Board agreed that, with respect to Action 35 of the Councils request, the Office of the Board should continue discussions with officers and members of the Council with a view to progressing the development of materials to support teachers to implement education for sustainability, subject to suitable arrangements for funding of the development and publication of the materials. With respect to Action 36, namely that the Board of Studies be requested to develop new courses in environmental education, the Boards response should indicate that this recommendation would need to be addressed to the Government as it has significant resource implications.

10. *Australian Securities and Investments Commissions Report of Discussion Paper on Financial Literacy in schools.*

The Board noted the report.

11. *Recommendations of the Board of Studies Aboriginal Education Initiatives Advisory Committee meeting of 31 March 2004.*

The Board agreed that a joint meeting should be convened between the Boards Aboriginal Education Initiatives Advisory Committee and Vocational Education and Training (VET) Advisory Committee, supplemented by other personnel with expertise in the area, to consider the options and implications of VET courses being made available in Stage 5. As a separate issue, the Board also agreed that it should seek ways to make sure that people in school systems and in schools have better understanding and awareness of the document, Working with Aboriginal communities: a guide to community consultation and protocols.

12. *Letter from the English Teachers Association (ETA) NSW.*

The Board received a tabled letter from the English Teachers Association NSW. The letter submitted that the Board should continue to provide standards packages for all HSC English courses. The Board noted that the Office of the Board will arrange a meeting with representatives of the ETA.

13. *Progress report on implementation of the Eltis Evaluation Report, Time to Teach Time to Learn, and report on the Primary Curriculum Project.*

The Board agreed that, in the interests of time efficiency, the Boards Primary Curriculum Committee should be authorised to pursue this project on the Boards behalf in the interval before the next Board meeting and provide a report to that meeting.

14. *Preliminary and HSC entries 2004.*

The Board noted a tabled report.

15. *Review of Office of the Board of Studies by the Council on the Cost and Quality of Government.*

The Board appointed a small sub-committee to coordinate any issues which the Board might wish to bring to the attention of the Council.