



2 July 2021

Mr David de Carvalho  
ACARA  
L13, Tower B, 280 Elizabeth Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Mr de Carvalho

The Australian Mathematical Society (AustMS) is calling on the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority to extend the consultation phase for the proposed new Foundation to Year 10 Australian Curriculum, Mathematics, beyond its 8 July deadline, and to significantly widen the consultation process.

As stated by ACARA, the current National Curriculum requires “refining, updating and decluttering to better support teachers”. The draft document, as released by ACARA, does not appear to meet these descriptors, and includes a number of quite radical changes, not just to the curriculum itself but also to the way some of the curriculum is to be taught. The draft document is opaque, ill-explained by the supporting *What has changed and why?* documentation, and its potential implementation has raised significant concern within the mathematics community.

The AustMS urgently calls on ACARA to communicate much better – through Town-hall style meetings with stakeholders in the Mathematics and Education communities – what informed the proposed curriculum in Mathematics, what it regards as world's best practice in Mathematics curricula and education, and what evidence it has that the proposed changes will address the long-term downward trends in performance in Mathematics by Australian school students.

Without these necessary steps by ACARA the AustMS cannot support or have confidence in the new curriculum in Mathematics.

Yours sincerely

Prof. S. Ole Warnaar  
President of AustMS