

Leonie Sheedy
Executive Officer and Committee Member
Care Leavers Australia Network (CLAN)
PO Box 164 Georges Hall

22 December 2011

Dear Leonie

I am really pleased to let you know about changes that have been approved for the Australian Curriculum.

These changes make explicit what we would like young Australians to learn about the 'Forgotten Australians'. Following recent agreement of the Ministerial Council the Australian Curriculum will be updated in January 2012 as follows:

Year 6 students being taught about:

"Experiences of Australian democracy and citizenship, including the status and rights of Aboriginal people and/or Torres Strait Islanders migrants, women and children." The Year 6 content description has been amended to include explicit attention to the experiences of children.

A new elaboration will also exist, which will have students "Investigating the experiences of democracy and citizenship of children who were placed in orphanages, homes and other institutions (for example the nature of their food and shelter, education and contacts with family).

Year 10 students being taught about:

The continuing nature of efforts to secure civil rights and freedoms in Australia and throughout the world, such as the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007). This current content description will be retained.

A new elaboration is to be added, which will have students "Investigating the legacy of children's experiences in 'care' (their placement in orphanages, Children's Homes, foster care and other forms of out-of-home care), and the significance of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1990)".

I have really appreciated the advice that you have provided to us and also want to acknowledge your commitment to this small but very significant change to the Australian Curriculum.

May I also take this opportunity to wish you, your colleagues and friends all the best for the Christmas and new year period.

Yours sincerely



Robert Randall
General Manager, Curriculum