



**ASIA LEADERSHIP
ROUNDTABLE**

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Educational Reform and Change in the Asia Pacific Region

Challenges of School Education Change and Reform in the Australian Context

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1. Australia has declared Educational Goals for Young Australians namely:

- To realise the goal of Australian schooling promoting equity and excellence
- To realise the goal that all young Australians become
 - successful learners,
 - confident and creative individuals and
 - active and informed citizens.

2. The Australian School Education Reform Agenda has been addressing these goals with considerable progress over the past three years, particularly through 'cooperative federalism' advanced through a number of key National Partnerships involving the Commonwealth Government and all States and Territories and through the establishment of three key national agencies:

- the Australian, Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority;
- the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership; and
- Education Services Australia.

3. There is an ongoing focus on advancing these National Goals through supporting quality teaching and school leadership, promoting world class curriculum and assessment, strengthening accountability and transparency, strengthening early childhood education, improving educational outcomes for indigenous youth and disadvantaged or disengaged young Australians – especially those from low socio economic backgrounds, enhancing middle years development, and supporting senior years of schooling and youth transitions.

4. There are three National Education Agreements setting targets:

- To lift the Year 12 or equivalent completion rate to 90% by 2015
- To halve the gap for Indigenous students in Reading, Writing and Numeracy within a decade
- To at least halve the gap for Indigenous young people in Year 12 or equivalent attainment by 2020

5. Key challenges include:

- To make clear the critical link between education, productivity and a civil society.
- To realise genuine commitment to a lifelong learning education and training system, including increasingly seamless connections between the 0 – 8 years early childhood education agenda, the schooling agenda, and the skills and further/higher education agenda.
- To support a lifelong learning system with high quality national infrastructure, including the necessary technology to enable access to personalized learning.

6. These efforts to generate system change are driven by the commitment to connect Australia to a global agenda for accelerated improvement in learning for all young people. The aim is to meet the needs of 21st century learners operating in a complex and demanding environment – and in Australia's case particularly in the Asian region.

