



All in the delivery

RETRAINING teachers to deliver the learning goals in the new national curriculum will be a big task, but possible, according to Education Minister Julia Gillard.

A draft copy of the document is being trialled in 150 schools nationally in the coming months and is available online for public consultation until May 23.

The Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority's (ACARA) chairman Barry McGaw has overseen its development and is hoping it will be one of the world's best.

"(I hope) that Australia will have a world class curriculum and maybe even a world's best curriculum, actually."

Professor McGaw has also acknowledged teachers would need to be retrained to teach the document's educational outcomes.

Australian Education Union federal president Angelo Gavrielatos says he's disappointed with the lack of genuine broad consultation with the profession so far.

"The tight timeframe of the consultation will not allow for the meaningful collective engagement of teachers in the process," he said.

"A curriculum document, old or new, in itself does not improve educational outcomes. Educational outcomes may be improved if a curriculum is properly supported and resourced — that includes money for teaching materials and, most impor-



The opposition is likely to review the new national curriculum and may scrap it and start again if it gains power.

tantly, the professional development for teachers."

Opposition education spokesman, Christopher Pyne, has complained the document fails to address key events in Australian history. He said it made no reference to the Magna Carta or Westminster parliamentary system.

Gillard hit back saying Pyne had failed to read the document properly. The coalition has said it will review the curriculum, and scrap it if it doesn't measure up.

Independent Education Union spokeswoman Christine Cooper said it was time to move beyond discussing the document's detail and start looking at how it would be implemented.

"The success of the national curriculum will depend on the extent that teacher engagement and resources are applied at the state and territory level," she said.