

Applying for membership of senior syllabus development committees

Purpose

To invite eligible subject matter experts (practising Queensland teachers, subject association members, academics, industry professionals, and cultural and community leaders) to apply for membership of the Syllabus advisory committees (SACs) and Syllabus sub-committees (SSCs) for the development of the:

- Critical Thinking Short Course syllabus
- Cultural Learning Short Course syllabus
- Science Extension General syllabus.

Background

The QCAA recently approved the development of three new syllabuses:

- **Critical Thinking Short Course syllabus** — a one-unit course where learners will develop increased personal agency through confidence in their capacity to think critically, independently and cooperatively
- **Cultural Learning Short Course syllabus** — a one-unit course where learners will deepen their understanding of Australia's diverse cultures and histories by engaging respectfully with Aboriginal peoples' and Torres Strait Islander peoples' knowledges, worldviews, and experiences. Learners will explore cultural protocols, ethical engagement, and the significance of Country/Place, while developing transferable skills such as ethical understanding and critical reflection
- **Science Extension General syllabus** — a two-unit course where learners will engage in extended scientific inquiry activities not presently available in the General Science subjects, and explore topics of personal interest, including transdisciplinary topics not prescribed by existing syllabuses.

Syllabus development

There will be a SAC and SSC for each of the three syllabuses. The:

- SAC is responsible for
 - reviewing and refining the Subject and Syllabus design briefs
 - reviewing public consultation feedback

- recommending refinements based on feedback
- SSC is responsible for
 - drafting the syllabus in accordance with Subject and Syllabus design briefs and other subject-specific requirements. For Cultural Learning, this includes co-design and review through a culturally safe process involving Aboriginal stakeholders and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders
 - refining the draft syllabus in accordance with the recommendations made by the SAC.

Responsibilities of committee members

SAC members *guide and shape* the subject and syllabus as they:

- engage with the redevelopment process, undertaking tasks required by the writing team leader or QCAA personnel
- examine comparable senior secondary curriculums selected from national and international jurisdictions
- undertake research to support syllabus development
- provide expert advice about syllabus content and assessment
- contribute to group discussions, considering alternative viewpoints
- present written and spoken information clearly and concisely
- contribute to writing senior syllabuses
- meet process goals and timelines
- listen and respond to feedback from peers and stakeholders
- evaluate draft syllabuses
- ensure confidentiality
- maintain cultural integrity and safety.

SSC members *draft* the syllabus and syllabus implementation support resources as they:

- engage with the redevelopment process, undertaking tasks required by the writing team leader or QCAA personnel
- examine comparable senior secondary curriculums, selected from national and international jurisdictions
- undertake research to support syllabus development
- provide expert advice about syllabus content and assessment
- contribute to group discussions, considering alternative viewpoints
- present written and spoken information clearly and concisely
- contribute to the writing of senior syllabuses
- meet process goals and timelines
- listen and respond to feedback from peers and stakeholders
- evaluate draft syllabuses

- ensure confidentiality
- maintain cultural integrity and safety.

Information

Committee membership

Syllabus development committees will consist largely of subject matter experts, including practising Queensland teachers, subject association members, academics, industry professionals, and cultural and community leaders.

Current experience teaching a similar subject in Year 11 or 12 levels, or recent experience in planning and writing curriculum will be advantageous.

Critical Thinking

The QCAA encourages applications for membership on the SAC and SSC from:

- Humanities and Social Science Heads of Department
- teachers of any General HASS syllabus
- community and cultural leaders
- discipline academics
- education academics
- professional associations
- unions.

Cultural Learning

The Cultural Learning Short Course SAC and SSC committees will include Aboriginal identified positions and Torres Strait Islander identified positions to ensure leadership in content and cultural authority. The QCAA encourages applications for membership on the SAC and SSC from:

- Aboriginal cultural knowledge holders, educators and leaders
- Torres Strait Islander knowledge holders, educators and leaders
- teachers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages
- curriculum specialists and education professionals committed to culturally responsive curriculum development
- academics and experts in Indigenous Education
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Community-Controlled Organisations (A&TSICCO)
- professional associations
- unions.

Science Extension

The QCAA encourages applications for membership on the SAC and SSC from:

- Science Heads of Department
- teachers of any General Science syllabus
- community and cultural leaders
- science discipline academics
- science education academics
- professional associations
- unions.

Meetings

Members of the SAC and SSC are required to attend all meetings as scheduled. Members must be available for the full term of each syllabus development process.

Schedule

These schedules are subject to change. Meetings may be face-to-face or online.

Some subjects may require fewer or more meetings, and this will be determined through negotiation between members and the QCAA as the development of the syllabuses proceeds.

Table 1 SAC meeting schedule

Meeting	Time	Date	Description
Event 1	1 hour	18 December 2025	Online training
Offline work	5 hours	Between Event 1 and Event 2	Review and provide feedback on Subject design brief and Syllabus design brief
Event 2	1 hour	6 January 2026	Online meeting to finalise the committees feedback and support for Subject design brief and Syllabus design brief
Event 3	1 day	5 February 2026	Review and endorse draft syllabus and consultation plan
Event 4	1 day	14 April 2026	Review consultation feedback and make recommendations for refinements to the draft syllabus
Event 5	1 day	30 June 2026	Review and endorse draft syllabus and syllabus implementation support products

Table 2 SSC meeting schedule

Meeting	Time	Date	Description
Event 1	5 days	14–16 January 2026 19–20 January 2026	Draft syllabus and syllabus implementation support products
Event 2	2 days	6–7 May 2026	Refine syllabus and syllabus implementation support products

Remuneration

Committee members are paid an hourly rate of \$79.60.

No TRS is available. Teachers will need to make appropriate arrangements with their principal for any committee activities occurring during school hours.

Travel and accommodation will be organised by the QCAA where appropriate.

What you need to do

Prior to applying, please:

- consider the responsibilities of all committee roles
- read the [role description](#) to identify those you are suited to
- ensure you are available for the full term of each syllabus development process
- for school-based employees, please provide email approval from your principal or supervisor indicating their support for you to participate in committee activities.

Your application should consist of:

- a completed [nomination form](#) indicating the committee you are interested in joining
- your resume highlighting your experience relevant to the committee and role (maximum 2 pages)
- a one-page cover letter demonstrating the knowledge and attributes you would bring to the committee, e.g. teacher, academic, cultural knowledge holder, educator and leader.

Finding out more

Please email the Senior Curriculum Unit at scu@qcaa.qld.edu.au.

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