

Policy Type: Terms of
Reference

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Responsible person EO

Version 1.0

Approved by
Scheduled review date 2025

Terms of Reference

Science Teachers Association of NSW 7-10 Syllabus Rural Advisory Group

Background

The implementation of the new NSW 7-10 Science Syllabus presents unique challenges and opportunities for rural and regional schools across New South Wales. To address these specific needs, the Science Teachers Association of NSW (STANSW) is establishing a Rural Advisory Group. This group will focus on ensuring that the syllabus implementation is inclusive and supportive of the diverse contexts within rural and regional educational settings.

Purpose

The Rural Advisory Group's primary purpose is to provide targeted advice and insights into the adaptation and application of the new NSW 7-10 Science Syllabus in rural and regional areas. The group will highlight specific challenges, resources, and strategies pertinent to these communities, ensuring equitable access to high-quality science education for all students.

Membership

The Rural Advisory Group will comprise rural and regional educators, school leaders, and community stakeholders with direct experience and involvement in rural and regional education.

Membership is on a voluntary basis, with terms lasting for the duration of the syllabus implementation period (2 years), and meetings occurring 1-4 times during this period.

Responsibilities

The Rural Advisory Group will:

- Identify and articulate the specific needs, challenges, and opportunities associated with implementing the new syllabus in rural and regional contexts.
- Advise on the development and adaptation of resources, training, and support mechanisms to meet the unique needs of rural educators and students.



- Facilitate communication and collaboration between rural educators, STANSW, and other stakeholders to ensure a cohesive and inclusive implementation strategy.
- Provide feedback on the effectiveness of implementation strategies and resources in rural settings, suggesting adjustments and improvements as necessary.

The group will operate in an advisory capacity only, without decision-making authority, but with a significant influence on shaping the implementation approach in rural and regional areas.

Conflict of interest

Group members must disclose any actual or perceived conflicts of interest that could impact their impartiality or the group's objectives. These disclosures will be managed in accordance with STANSW's conflict of interest policy to maintain the group's integrity and focus.

Volunteer agreement

As a volunteer group in the Association, members will be required to adhere to the terms in the STANSW Volunteer Policy and complete the Volunteer Agreement: [Volunteer Policy.docx](#)

Review

The Terms of Reference for the Rural Advisory Group will be reviewed at the end of the 2-year implementation period or earlier if required. The review will be conducted by the STANSW Executive Committee, in consultation with the Rural Advisory Group, to assess the group's impact, effectiveness, and any ongoing needs beyond the initial implementation phase.

Catholic or other religion