Over the last decade, Australia has been in the process of implementing a national curriculum.

The move from state-based control to a national approach marks a dramatic shift in the Australian education system, and so raises a number of significant questions: Why and how did this happen? What were the debates, disputes and processes that led to the current version of what is called the Australian Curriculum? To what extent does it meet the future needs of Australian society? Is it a national curriculum, or do the states and territories still really retain control? What might happen from here? What should happen from here?

Within the book’s 284 pages, many of Australia’s leading curriculum scholars explore such questions about Australia’s first national curriculum. The book will assist in understanding and analysing the debates and tensions around aspects of the architecture of the Australian Curriculum, how these played out, and how the outcomes of these debates are represented in the curriculum text.

The book has been structured into six parts and is designed to be read as a whole, or in parts, or as individual chapters. It will be of interest to a wide range of academics, pre-service teachers, school-based educators, policy makers and anyone interested in Australia’s national curriculum.

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