

Rationale

In an increasingly complex, sedentary and rapidly changing world it is critical for every young Australian to not only be able to cope with life's challenges but also to flourish as healthy, safe and active citizens in the 21st century. This is a strong investment in the future of the Australian population. Technology and media will continue to transform our lives and change the way we communicate. Some health issues will endure while new ones will emerge. New forms of physical activity will become available. Students need critical inquiry skills to research and analyse knowledge and to understand the influences on their own and others' health, safety, wellbeing and physical activity participation. They also need to be resilient, to develop empathy and to be actively engaged in their own and others' wellbeing, using health, safety and physical activity resources for the benefit of themselves and their communities. In Health and Physical Education, students develop the skills, knowledge, and understanding to strengthen their sense of self, and build and manage satisfying, respectful relationships. They learn to build on personal and community strengths and assets to enhance safety and wellbeing. They critique and challenge assumptions and stereotypes. Students learn to navigate a range of health-related sources, services and organisations. At the core of Health and Physical Education is the acquisition of movement skills and concepts to enable students to participate in a range of physical activities – confidently, competently and creatively. As a foundation for lifelong physical activity participation and enhanced performance, students acquire an understanding of how the body moves and develop positive attitudes towards physical activity participation. They develop an appreciation of the significance of physical activity, outdoor recreation and sport in Australian society and globally. Movement is a powerful medium for learning, through which students can practise and refine personal, behavioural, social and cognitive skills. Health and Physical Education provides students with an experiential curriculum that is contemporary, relevant, challenging and physically active.

Years 7 and 8 Achievement Standard

By the end of Year 8, students evaluate strategies and resources to manage changes and transitions and investigate their impact on identities. Students evaluate the impact on wellbeing of relationships and valuing diversity. They analyse factors that influence emotional responses. They investigate strategies and practices that enhance their own, others' and community health, safety and wellbeing. They investigate and apply movement concepts and select strategies to achieve movement and fitness outcomes. They examine the cultural and historical significance of physical activities and examine how connecting to the environment can enhance health and wellbeing. Students apply personal and social skills to establish and maintain respectful relationships and promote safety, fair play and inclusivity. They demonstrate skills to make informed decisions, and propose and implement actions that promote their own and others' health, safety and wellbeing. Students demonstrate control and accuracy when performing specialised movement sequences and skills. They apply movement concepts and refine strategies to suit different movement situations. They apply the elements of movement to compose and perform movement sequences.

Aims

The Australian Curriculum: Health and Physical Education (F–10) aims to develop the knowledge, understanding and skills to enable students to:

- access, evaluate and synthesise information to take positive action to protect, enhance and advocate for their own and others' health, wellbeing, safety and physical activity participation across their lifespan
- develop and use personal, behavioural, social and cognitive skills and strategies to promote a sense of personal identity and wellbeing and to build and manage respectful relationships
- acquire, apply and evaluate movement skills, concepts and strategies to respond confidently, competently and creatively in a variety of physical activity contexts and settings
- engage in and enjoy regular movement-based learning experiences and understand and appreciate their significance to personal, social, cultural, environmental and health practices and outcomes
- analyse how varied and changing personal and contextual factors shape understanding of, and opportunities for, health and physical activity locally, regionally and globally.

Key Ideas

Health and Physical Education propositions

The Australian Curriculum: Health and Physical Education has been shaped by five interrelated propositions that are informed by a strong and diverse research base for a futures-oriented curriculum:

Focus on educative purposes

The prime responsibility of the Health and Physical Education curriculum is to describe the progression and development of the disciplinary knowledge, understanding and skills underpinning health and physical education and how students will make meaning of and apply them in contemporary health and movement contexts. Although the curriculum may contribute to a range of goals that sit beyond its educative purposes, the priority for the Health and Physical Education curriculum is to provide ongoing, developmentally appropriate and explicit learning about health and movement. The Health and Physical Education curriculum draws on its multidisciplinary evidence base to ensure that students are provided with learning opportunities to practise, create, apply and evaluate the knowledge, understanding and skills of the learning area.

Take a strengths-based approach

The Health and Physical Education curriculum is informed by a strengths-based approach. Rather than focusing only on potential health risks or a deficit-based model of health, the curriculum has a stronger focus on supporting students to develop the knowledge, understanding and skills they require to make healthy, safe and active choices that will enhance their own and others' health and wellbeing. This approach affirms that all students and their communities have particular strengths and resources that can be nurtured to improve their own and others' health, wellbeing, movement competence and participation in physical activity. The curriculum recognises that students have varying levels of access to personal and community resources depending on a variety of contextual factors that will impact on their decisions and behaviours.

Value movement

Health and Physical Education is the key learning area in the curriculum that focuses explicitly on developing movement skills and concepts students need to participate in physical activities with competence and confidence. The knowledge, understanding, skills and dispositions students develop through movement in Health and Physical Education encourage ongoing participation across their lifespan and in turn lead to positive health outcomes. Movement competence and confidence is seen as an important personal and community asset to be developed, refined and valued. Health and Physical Education promotes an appreciation of how movement in all its forms is central to daily life – from meeting functional requirements and providing opportunities for active living to acknowledging participation in physical activity and sport as significant cultural and social practices. The study of movement has a broad and established scientific, social, cultural and historical knowledge base, informing our understanding of how and why we move and how we can improve physical performance. The study of movement also provides challenges and opportunities for students to enhance a range of personal and social skills and behaviours that contribute to health and wellbeing.

Develop health literacy

Health literacy can be understood as an individual's ability to gain access to, understand and use health information and services in ways that promote and maintain health and wellbeing. The Health and Physical Education curriculum focuses on developing knowledge, understanding and skills related to the three dimensions of health literacy:

- functional dimension – researching and applying information relating to knowledge and services to respond to a health-related question
- interactive dimension – requires more advanced knowledge, understanding and skills to actively and independently engage with a health issue and to apply new information to changing circumstances
- critical dimension – the ability to selectively access and critically analyse health information from a variety of sources (which might include scientific information, health brochures or messages in the media) to take action to promote personal health and wellbeing or that of others.

Consistent with a strengths-based approach, health literacy is a personal and community asset to be developed, evaluated, enriched and communicated.

Include a critical inquiry approach

The Health and Physical Education curriculum engages students in critical inquiry processes that assist students in researching, analysing, applying and appraising knowledge in health and movement fields. In doing so, students will critically analyse and critically evaluate contextual factors that influence decision-making, behaviours and actions, and explore inclusiveness, power inequalities, assumptions, diversity and social justice. The Health and Physical Education curriculum recognises that values, behaviours, priorities and actions related to health and physical activity reflect varying contextual factors which influence the ways people live. The curriculum develops an understanding that the meanings and interests individuals and social groups have in relation to health practices and physical activity participation are diverse and therefore require different approaches and strategies.

Importance of a healthy school environment

It has long been recognised that the broader school environment can enhance the delivery of the Health and Physical Education curriculum. Learning in Health and Physical Education supports students to make decisions about their health, wellbeing, safety and physical activity participation. If consistent messages are evident across the school and wider school community, this learning is validated and reinforced. Students are also better able to practise and reinforce their learning in Health and Physical Education if teaching and learning in all curriculum areas and the whole school environment reflect the knowledge, understanding and skills delivered in the Health and Physical Education curriculum. A healthy and supportive school environment may be enriched through health-promoting school policies and processes, and partnerships with parents, community organisations and specialist services.

Years 7 and 8 Band Description

The Year 7 and 8 curriculum expands students' knowledge, understanding and skills to help them achieve successful outcomes in classroom, leisure, social, movement and online situations. Students learn how to take positive action to enhance their own and others' health, safety and wellbeing. They do this as they examine the nature of their relationships and other factors that influence people's beliefs, attitudes, opportunities, decisions, behaviours and actions. Students demonstrate a range of help-seeking strategies that support them to access and evaluate health and physical activity information and services. The curriculum for Years 7 and 8 supports students to refine a range of specialised knowledge, understanding and skills in relation to their health, safety, wellbeing, and movement competence and confidence. Students develop specialised movement skills and understanding in a range of physical activity settings. They analyse how body control and coordination influence movement composition and performance and learn to transfer movement skills and concepts to a variety of physical activities. Students explore the role that games and sports, outdoor recreation, lifelong physical activities, and rhythmic and expressive movement activities play in shaping cultures and identities. They reflect on and refine personal and social skills as they participate in a range of physical activities.

Focus areas to be addressed in Years 7 and 8 include:

- alcohol and other drugs (AD)
- food and nutrition (FN)
- health benefits of physical activity (HBPA)
- mental health and wellbeing (MH)
- relationships and sexuality (RS)
- safety (S)
- challenge and adventure activities (CA)
- games and sports (GS)
- lifelong physical activities (LLPA)
- rhythmic and expressive movement activities (RE).

Structure

In the Australian Curriculum: Health and Physical Education (F–10), the two strands, personal, social and community health and movement and physical activity, are interrelated and inform and support each other. Both strands must be taught in each year from Foundation to Year 10. Creating opportunities for practical application will enhance the development of knowledge, understanding and skills across a range of relevant and meaningful health and movement focus areas. Students should be provided with the opportunity to participate in physical activity on a weekly basis as a minimum as part of the HPE curriculum.

Being healthy, safe and active

The content focuses on supporting students to make decisions about their own health, safety and wellbeing. It develops the knowledge, understanding and skills to support students to be resilient. It enables them to access and understand health information and empowers them to make healthy, safe and active choices. In addition, the content explores personal identities and emotions, and the contextual factors that influence students' health, safety and wellbeing. Students also learn about the behavioural aspects related to regular physical activity and develop the dispositions needed to be active individuals.

Communicating and interacting for health and wellbeing

The content develops knowledge, understanding and skills to enable students to critically engage with a range of health focus areas and issues. It also helps them apply new information to changing circumstances and environments that influence their own and others' health, safety and wellbeing.

Contributing to healthy and active communities

The content develops knowledge, understanding and skills to enable students to critically analyse contextual factors that influence the health and wellbeing of communities. The content supports students to selectively access information, products, services and environments to take action to promote the health and wellbeing of their communities.

Moving our body

The content lays the important early foundations of play and fundamental movement skills. It focuses on the acquisition and refinement of a broad range of movement skills. Students apply movement concepts and strategies to enhance performance and move with competence and confidence. Students develop skills and dispositions necessary for lifelong participation in physical activities.

Understanding movement

The content focuses on developing knowledge and understanding about how and why our body moves and what happens to our body when it moves. While participating in physical activities, students analyse and evaluate theories, techniques and strategies that can be used to understand and enhance the quality of movement and physical activity performance. They explore the place and meaning of physical activity, outdoor recreation and sport in their own lives, and across time and cultures.

Learning through movement

The content focuses on personal and social skills that can be developed through participation in movement and physical activities. These skills include communication, decision-making, problem-solving, critical and creative thinking, and cooperation. The skills can be developed as students work individually and in small groups or teams to perform movement tasks or solve movement challenges. Through movement experiences, students develop other important personal and social skills such as self-awareness, self-management, persisting with challenges and striving for enhanced performance. They also experience the varied roles within organised sport and recreation.

Focus areas

The 12 focus areas provide the breadth of learning across Foundation to Year 10 that must be taught for students to acquire and demonstrate the knowledge, understanding and skills described in the achievement standard for each band of learning. The focus areas have been mapped to each content description and elaboration (annotations included in brackets) to assist teachers in their planning. Descriptions of each of the focus areas and the learning expected in each can be accessed through hyperlinks from the focus area annotations after each elaboration.

Advice on appropriate timing for addressing each focus area is provided in the band descriptions. It is expected that the focus areas identified in each band description will contribute substantially to the Health and Physical Education teaching and learning program for the relevant band of learning. Decisions about the specific timing of when each focus area will be taught within the two-year band (for example, whether to teach about safety in Year 3 or Year 4 or in both years) are the responsibility of schools and teachers. Planning decisions should take into account local needs, available resources, students' readiness and community priorities.

Same-sex attracted and gender-diverse students

As with other areas of student diversity, it is crucial to acknowledge and affirm diversity in relation to sexuality and gender in Health and Physical Education. Inclusive Health and Physical Education programs which affirm sexuality and gender diversity acknowledge the impact of diversity on students' social worlds, acknowledge and respond to the needs of all students, and provide more meaningful and relevant learning opportunities for all students.

The Australian Curriculum: Health and Physical Education (F–10) is designed to allow schools flexibility to meet the learning needs of all young people, particularly in the health focus area of relationships and sexuality. All school communities have a responsibility when implementing the Health and Physical Education curriculum to ensure that teaching is inclusive and relevant to the lived experiences of all students. This is particularly important when teaching about reproduction and sexual health, to ensure that the needs of all students are met, including students who may be same-sex attracted, gender diverse or intersex.

Years 7 and 8 Content Descriptions

Personal, Social and Community Health

Being healthy, safe and active

Investigate the impact of transition and change on identities.
Evaluate strategies to manage personal, physical and social changes that occur as they grow older.
Practise and apply strategies to seek help for themselves or others.
Investigate and select strategies to promote health, safety and wellbeing.

Communicating and interacting for health and wellbeing

Investigate the benefits of relationships and examine their impact on their own and others' health and wellbeing.
Analyse factors that influence emotions, and develop strategies to demonstrate empathy and sensitivity.
Evaluate health information and communicate their own and others' health concerns.

Contributing to healthy and active communities

Plan and use health practices, behaviours and resources to enhance health, safety and wellbeing of their communities.
Plan and implement strategies for connecting to natural and built environments to promote the health and wellbeing of their communities.
Investigate the benefits to individuals and communities of valuing diversity and promoting inclusivity.

Movement and Physical Activity

Moving our body

Use feedback to improve body control and coordination when performing specialised movement skills in a variety of situations.
Practise, apply and transfer movement concepts and strategies with and without equipment.

Understanding movement

Participate in physical activities that develop health-related and skill-related fitness components, and create and monitor personal fitness plans.
Demonstrate and explain how the elements of effort, space, time, objects and people can enhance movement sequences.
Participate in and investigate cultural and historical significance of a range of physical activities.

Learning through movement

Practise and apply personal and social skills when undertaking a range of roles in physical activities.
Evaluate and justify reasons for decisions and choices of action when solving movement challenges.
Modify rules and scoring systems to allow for fair play, safety and inclusive participation.