

From: BRUNIGES,Michele
Sent: Wednesday, 1 March 2023 10:29 AM
To:

Cc:
Subject: Concerns raised at Senate Estimates [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Dear Colleagues,

As you may be aware, the Department recently appeared at Senate Estimates and received questions relating to teaching of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice (Voice) in Australian classrooms. The Department affirmed states and territories' lead responsibility in implementing the Australian Curriculum and noted that while the Voice is not explicitly included in the Curriculum, teaching relating to Voice and the Referendum would fall under Civics and Citizenship.

Senators raised concerns that only one perspective on the Voice Referendum debate is being taught in schools. I affirmed that teachers use their professional judgement in supporting discussions on civics and citizenship, and that they do so within jurisdictional processes such as codes of conduct, but offered to raise their concern with you.

Senators referenced a recent article in The Australian '*Indoctrination' claim as schools take voice to classrooms* (copy attached for ease of reference).

I appreciate your consideration of these concerns within your jurisdiction. I know you will continue to support teachers to exercise their professional judgement in the balanced teaching of civics and citizenship.

Kind regards,
Michele