

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016**

Outcome: Agency: ACARA

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000130

Senator Lines, Sue provided in writing

ACARA: Development of the curriculum for students with disability

Question

What approach is being taken to the development of the curriculum for students with disability? E.g. disability specific curriculum, universal design, modified national curriculum.

- Will the approach to inclusion extend beyond the classroom to excursions, sport and other school activities?
- What is the best practice in curriculum for students with disability in Australia currently and also internationally?
- Have you consulted with any stakeholders – where is this up to?
- When will this work be finished? Has the Min Council given any direction as to priority and timelines?
- Is ACARA currently funded to undertake this work? How much funding is allocated to the development of the curriculum for students with disability?

Answer

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) has provided the following response.

- ACARA has jurisdiction of the Australian Curriculum only. Approaches to inclusion beyond that are the responsibility of state and territory education and school authorities.
- To develop options for the consideration of Education Council ACARA revisited approaches taken to support students with significant intellectual disability across Australia and in a selection of other countries.

This review illustrated that within Australia, in keeping with the Disability Standards for Education under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth), there is consistency in the requirement for negotiated individual learning plans that articulate amongst other things, adjustments made to the curriculum for each student.

In relation to curriculum provision for students with disability in England, Finland, Singapore, New Zealand, the United States (generally) and Ontario approaches differ from a single curriculum provision not unlike the Australian Curriculum to separate provision, particularly for students in special settings. Countries where there is a strong legislative requirement for inclusive practices and provisions (both in relation to services/access for the general public and for students in schools) have a single curriculum provision.

- Refer to SQ16-000025 for a comprehensive list of stakeholders consulted in the development of resources to better support teachers of students with significant intellectual disability.

- d. Education Council has approved a completion date of 30 June 2016 for ACARA's development of the three resources (refer to SQ16-000024 for detail).
- e. ACARA has allocated a budget of \$100,000 (excluding staff salaries) for the development of the three resources, in addition to the necessary staffing commitment required to complete this work.