

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

Agency - Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority (ACARA)

Department of Education Question No. ED0199_15

Senator O'Neill provided in writing.

Question

ACARA - Australian Curriculum review

1. How is ACARA planning to respond to the Government's Review of the Australian Curriculum? 2. Is responding to the Australian Curriculum Review part of the work program approved by the Standing Council? 3. Have any changes to ACARA's work program been approved by the Standing Council since the election? If so, what are the changes? 4. How much has been spent on this review? In terms of Department staff cost – even if it is within the Department budget, are you able to provide the cost of the staff involved? How much is spent on travel? How many staff? What expenses? Can ACARA provide a breakdown?

Answer

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority has provided the following response:

ACARA welcomes the review of the Australian Curriculum, which represents another opportunity to gather feedback on the Australian Curriculum and address any issues identified. ACARA supports any initiative that improves the learning opportunities for Australian school students.

ACARA's current work program was approved by the Standing Council prior to the commissioning of the Australian Curriculum Review by the Australian Government. No changes to ACARA's annual work plan for 2013-2014 have been approved by the Standing Council since the September 2013 Commonwealth election.

However, ACARA operates as any other public sector agency would, that is, it has an obligation to respond to government and parliamentary processes relating to its areas of responsibility (including, in this case, meeting and corresponding with the Review Panel). At this stage, ACARA has not received any directions from the Standing Council in relation to the review. Any proposed changes to the Australian Curriculum that emerge from the Australian Government's review would be considered by the Standing Council. ACARA will enact any resulting directions from the Standing Council.

ACARA has not spent any funds as such on the review. ACARA staff have been involved in responding to requests relating to the review. No additional staff have been engaged by ACARA for this work. This resourcing is not tracked by ACARA.

ACARA cannot provide advice on Departmental resourcing of the review.