

**Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education**

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

**Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth**

**Department of Education Question No. ED0603\_15**

**Senator Wright asked on 22 October 2014 , Hansard page 14**

**Question**

**Appointment of Professor Spurr to the Australian Curriculum review**

Senator WRIGHT: How were the expert reviewers used as part of the curriculum review appointed? Who briefed them and how much were they paid? Mr Cook: They were identified by the two reviewers. Senator WRIGHT: Professor Wiltshire and Doctor Donnelly? Mr Cook: That is correct. I am assuming they had consultations and discussions together about those reviewers. They were appointed then under a standard contract by the department. The cost for each report was \$8,250. Senator WRIGHT: What is the total sum that has been paid to Professor Spurr? Mr Cook: It would have been \$8,250, as part of that report. Senator WRIGHT: So Professor Spurr was selected to participate in the curriculum review in the same way? Mr Cook: That is correct. Senator WRIGHT: He would have been identified by Doctor Donnelly and/or Professor Wiltshire and approached by them? Mr Cook: That is my understanding. Senator WRIGHT: Do you know if either of those particular reviewers suggested him or where the initial suggestion came from? Mr Cook: No. That would have been a matter for the two reviewers. We were not part of that process. Senator WRIGHT: Is it possible to ascertain that process? Can the department ask? Ms Paul: Ask the reviewers? Senator WRIGHT: Yes, as to what the process was for appointing Professor Spurr. Ms Paul: If you would like us to, we can take that on notice.

**Answer**

Professor Ken Wiltshire AO and Dr Kevin Donnelly identified subject matter specialists whom they considered had the appropriate knowledge and skills to undertake the task of reviewing details of the Australian Curriculum in specific learning areas. Professor Wiltshire and Dr Donnelly jointly agreed all appointments of subject matter specialists.

Professor Wiltshire and Dr Donnelly approached the subject matter specialists to affirm their availability and interest.

The department was responsible for the contractual arrangements with the subject matter specialists.