

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016**

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000708

Senator O'Neill, Deborah asked on 21 October 2015, Proof Hansard page 101

Review of ACARA

Question

Senator O'NEILL: So there were some adjustments to the recommendations, based on feedback from the states and territories.

Mr Cook: I think there were some minor slight adjustments made when they went out to state and territory departments for consultation.

Senator O'NEILL: When you say minor slight ones, for example:

C2: ACARA undertakes a six-year cycle of review for the Australian Curriculum.

What would be a slight adjustment?

Mr Cook: I do not think that there was an adjustment to that one that I am aware of. But I will have to take it on notice. I do not have the details with me at the moment about what state and territories have indicated.

Senator O'NEILL: If you could indicate any ones that required an adjustment after the first round.

Mr Cook: Sure. As I said, that would be very few. For those that did, it was just some slight change of wording, is my understanding.

Answer

As detailed in the following table, there were minor changes made to five recommendations relating to the assessment and governance themes of the Review of the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA).

| Recommendation | Previous wording | Revised wording |
|----------------|--|---|
| A1 | Acknowledge, as part of the new Charter, that ACARA's highest priority is to shift the balance of the available resources and attention to its assessment function to ensure successful implementation of the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) online. | Acknowledge, as part of the new Charter, that ACARA's highest priority is to shift the balance of the available resources and attention to its assessment function and collaboration with Education Services Australia and all Australian governments to ensure successful implementation of NAPLAN online. |
| A2 | ACARA provides a more comprehensive and cohesive suite of online assessments that reflect the curriculum to enrich the understanding of educational outcomes of Australian students. | ACARA provides a more comprehensive and cohesive suite of online assessments that reflect the curriculum and improve the understanding of educational outcomes of Australian students. |
| G1 | Education Council revises the current Charter based on the next endorsed quadrennial work plan and budget. | Education Council revises the current Charter with reference to the next endorsed quadrennial work plan and budget. |
| G3 | Education Council delegates authority to the Australian Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs Senior Officials Committee (AEEYSOC) to oversee the progress of ACARA's work against the Charter including progress against the one and four year work plan and budget within the agreed parameters set by Education Council. | Education Council delegates authority to AEEYSOC to monitor the progress of ACARA's work against the Charter including progress against the one and four year work plan and budget within the agreed parameters set by Education Council. |
| G6 | Education Council considers moving towards an ACARA Board nomination process which is representational but also includes a skills requirement. | Education Council considers moving towards an ACARA Board appointment process that retains the current representational nominations and includes a more collaborative assessment of the skills of board members. |