

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000852

Senator Lines, Sue provided in writing

The Coalition's Policy for Schools: Students First - Specialist language teachers

Question

In relation to The Coalition's Policy for Schools: Students First p14:

Add specialist language teachers to the Skilled Occupation List

- a. Has this been done?
- b. Has there been an instruction or direction from the Minister to do this?
- c. Has there been any work done with the Department of Immigration to progress this?
- d. If on the Skilled Occupation List – how many times has this been used in each state and territory? For what languages? Who are the sponsors? What are the requirements and restrictions?
- e. MIN – Is this still the Government's policy? When will it be implemented?

Answer

Questions (a), (b) and (c): In regard to the Coalition's Policy for Schools: *Add specialist language teachers to the Skilled Occupation List*, the former Minister for Education, the Hon Christopher Pyne MP, received advice from the Assistant Minister for Immigration and Border Protection on 7 February 2014 confirming that the duties and tasks described within the teacher occupations address the specialised occupation of Foreign Language Teacher.

The following teacher occupations are included on the Skilled Occupation List and the Consolidated Sponsored Occupation List for the purpose of skilled migration:

- Early Childhood (Pre-Primary School) Teacher
- Secondary School Teacher
- Special Needs Teacher
- Teacher of the Hearing Impaired
- Teacher of the Sight Impaired
- Special Education Teachers (nec).

Question (d): The Department of Education and Training does not have information on the number of times the skilled migration list has been used in each state and territory.

State and territory governments and other prospective employers are responsible for identifying what language teaching vacancies need filling and assessing whether a person with overseas teaching qualifications has the specialist language teaching skills required. It is also a decision for employers to act as a sponsor for skilled migration.

The Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) Ltd is gazetted by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection as the assessing authority for these school teacher occupations. The qualification requirements are available at: www.aitsl.edu.au/assessment-for-migration. (Applicants are responsible for checking other requirements for the Skilled Migration program at: www.border.gov.au/Trav/Work before applying to AITSL for an assessment of their teaching qualifications.)

Question (e): The Australian Government remains committed to working with states and territories to support language learning in schools.