

**Senate Committee: Education and Employment**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016**

**Outcome: Schools and Youth**

**Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000855**

Senator Lines, Sue provided in writing

***Research into foreign language education***

**Question**

In relation to The Coalition's Policy for Schools: Students First p14:  
Research the provision of foreign language education across jurisdictions in senior secondary years.

The Coalition will research ways to encourage more secondary students to continue foreign language education in year 11 and 12. Many students don't take a language in the secondary school years because they are worried about competing with native speakers. For example, 95 per cent of students undertaking Mandarin at Year 12 are either native-speakers of Chinese or have Chinese heritage.

Comprehensive research will be an important step towards streamlining language study in secondary years. It will inform all Governments on ways they could reinforce the weightings and other incentives to encourage high school students to continue foreign language study in senior secondary years.

Once concluded, a Coalition government will work with the States to implement these new incentives so that more students will be encouraged to study a language right up until Year 12 and beyond.

- a. Has any research been undertaken?
- b. When, by who, what were the results and the cost? Can the department provide it?
- c. Is this still the Government's policy?

**Answer**

- a. A research project has been conducted by the Asia Education Foundation to provide a comprehensive analysis of the provision of language education in Australia and to explore strategies to support improved take-up of language study in the senior secondary years.
- b. Funding of \$175,939 (GST exclusive) was provided to the Asia Education Foundation. The final report is expected to be published in the near future.
- c. Yes. The Australian Government will continue to work with the states and territories through the Council of Australian Governments Education Council to develop a nationally consistent approach to language learning over the next decade.