Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000875

Senator Lines, Sue provided in writing.

ESA contract - Coding Across the Curriculum

Question

In relation to the Coding Across the Curriculum contract awarded to ESA:
a. Specifically, what resources will be produced? When will the resourced be ready for classroom use?
b. What year levels will the resources be appropriate for?
c. Will there be any support for classroom teachers to be skilled in coding and the use of the teaching resources?

Answer

a. On 14 October 2014, as a part of the Industry Innovation and Competitiveness Agenda, the Australian Government announced $12 million for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) school education initiatives, including $3.5 million for Coding across the Curriculum. This initiative is aimed at providing students with greater exposure to computer coding across different year levels in Australian schools. Funding has been provided over four years (2014–15 to 2017–18).

   A key component of this initiative is the development of a National Digital Technologies Hub which will provide all Australian teachers, students and parents with access to high quality resources that support implementation of the curriculum.

   The Department of Education and Training entered into a contract with Education Services Australia on 19 June 2015 to curate and produce teaching and learning resources that are aligned to the Australian Curriculum and develop students' algorithmic and computational thinking. These resources will be made available through the National Digital Technologies Hub to allow:
   *   curation of annotated resources and lesson plans
   *   sequencing and scaffolding of resources with an explanation of pedagogy
   *   'how to' and 'where to start' support
   *   mapping to other curriculum areas
   *   case studies demonstrating better practice.

   The first tranche of resources will be available to teachers by June 2016. Additional resources will be developed in response to feedback from jurisdictions and teachers.

b. Resources will be appropriate for Foundation to Year 10.

c. Support will be provided for teachers through the development of annotated teaching resources.