

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

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

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000876

Senator Lines, Sue provided in writing.

Mathematics by Inquiry

Question

In relation to Mathematics by Inquiry:

- a. Please provide an update on how this funding has been spent, what resources have been developed with this funding, and who is developing the resources?
- b. How much of that funding has been spent to date? Please provided an itemised breakdown of how the \$7.4 million has and will be spent and what resources and programs specifically will be produced under the program?
- c. When will the resources be ready?
- d. Is the program on schedule? If not, what has caused the delay?

Answer

- a. On 14 October 2014, the Australian Government announced funding of \$7.4 million for Mathematics by Inquiry as part of its commitment to mathematics education. The funding was part of the Government's Industry Innovation and Competitiveness Agenda, with a total of \$12 million being allocated to four initiatives supporting science, technology, engineering and mathematics education.

As at 5 November 2015, funding for Mathematics by Inquiry had been directed to:

- two external research papers examining gaps and opportunities in inquiry-based mathematics education
 - a roundtable of mathematics education specialists
 - production by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) of annotated work samples to support teachers implementing the proficiencies in the Australian Curriculum: Mathematics
 - curation of annotated digital teaching and learning resources in Scootle by Education Services Australia (ESA)
 - the first payment to the Australian Academy of Science (AAS), which was selected by open tender to undertake the development and dissemination of resources. This contract was signed on 13 October 2015.
- b. The resources to be produced include:
 - a teaching protocol that acts as the central element in guiding the development of the resources
 - eleven packages of eight lessons, with one package developed for each year from Foundation to Year 10
 - a minimum of five special topic units
 - a minimum of eight professional resource modules.

As at 5 November 2015, \$1.0 million had been expended and a further \$5.9 million has been committed as per the following table. The remaining funds will be spent on an evaluation of the project and associated administration.

Item	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18
External research papers	\$58,851			
Roundtable	\$10,850	\$1,820		
Annotated work samples project (ACARA)	\$224,000			
Curation of annotated digital teaching and learning resources (ESA)	\$206,000			
Conduct of tender process		\$551		
Resource development and dissemination (AAS) – paid		\$500,000		
Resource development and dissemination (AAS) – committed		\$1,796,000	\$2,170,000	\$1,941,923
Total	\$499,701	\$2,298,371	\$2,170,000	\$1,941,923

- c. The teaching protocol is due to be completed by April 2016 and the first group of resources will be completed by 31 October 2016. The remaining resources will be developed and progressively released until 30 April 2018.
- d. The Mathematics by Inquiry project is on schedule.