

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2006-2007 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome:

Output Group:

DEST Question No. E862_07

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

Minister Julie Bishop's NPC speech – national curriculum

1. What work is the Department undertaking in the areas of national curriculum and national consistency in curriculum?
2. Is the department working on specific proposals for the development of national curricula in areas identified by Minister Bishop (in mathematics and science)?
 - a. What of nationally consistent curricula?
 - b. Development of a national certificate?
3. Has any costing been done on the development and introduction of a national curriculum in these areas? Can you provide details?
4. Can you provide costings on harmonisation of state curricula?
5. Has any work been done on curriculum more broadly – other curriculum areas such as history and English?
6. Are there other measures under consideration in this area – what costs have been associated with these measures?
7. Can the Department provide details, over the forward estimates if possible
8. What correspondence if any has the Department had with State counterparts on this point?

Answer:

Minister Julie Bishop's NPC speech – national curriculum

1.
 - i) The Department worked with state and territory education systems to develop the Statements of Learning in English, Mathematics, Science, Civics and Citizenship, and Information and Communications Technology. The Statements of Learning were developed through the Curriculum Corporation and were agreed by the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs in August 2006.
 - ii) The Department commissioned the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) to conduct a study into options for the potential development of a national certificate of education. The report *Australian Certificate of Education; exploring a way forward*, was published in May 2006.

- iii) The Department commissioned ACER to do a comparative analysis of the content, curriculum and standards of five Year 12 subjects; English, mathematics, physics, chemistry and Australian history. The findings of this study were published in the report *Year 12 Curriculum Content and Achievement Standards* in February 2007.
- iv) The Department has released a Request for Tender for a study into the assessment and reporting of employability skills of senior secondary students. The study should be completed by the end of 2007.
- v) The Department has commissioned Associate Professor Tony Taylor (Associate Professor of Education, Monash University) to conduct a study to develop a model curriculum framework for Australian history in Years 3 – 10. The study is expected to be completed by April/May 2007.
- vi) The Department is providing \$5 million to the Australian Academy of Science for the development and implementation of the *Primary Connections - Linking Science with Literacy Project*. The project is developing curriculum modules and promoting an inquiry-based approach to science, underpinned by teacher professional learning, and is due for completion in 2008.

2-8 The details of, and arrangements for, implementation of the Government's policy position on implementing national consistency in curriculum is currently under consideration by government.