

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace  
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2010-2011**

**Outcome 2 - Schools**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0818\_11**

**Senator Cash provided in writing.**

**Question**

**SCHOOLS (RECOMMENDATION 11)**

1.Has the Government promoted the positive body image checklist in schools? If so, please provide a list of schools where the Code has been promoted and adopted. 2. Has the issue of body image been considered in the development of the national curriculum? If so, what changes have been made to the curriculum? 3. What follow-up has the Government conducted in schools to ensure implementation of body image initiatives?

**Answer**

1. The Government has commissioned the development of a body image poster and supporting materials for schools, drawing on the 'Checklist for Body Image Friendly Schools' developed by the National Advisory Group on Body Image. Both the poster and supporting materials are in the process of being finalised and the department expects them to be available to schools by mid 2011.
2. All education ministers, at their meeting on 15 April 2010, agreed to prioritise health and physical education in phase three of the development of the Australian Curriculum. Health and physical education is the learning area to which the issue of body image most obviously relates. Development of Australian Curriculum in the phase 3 learning areas is at a preliminary, planning stage. In 2011, the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority will advise Australian education ministers on the approach to developing an Australian Curriculum in the phase 3 learning areas. The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority has to date consulted extensively with the education community in developing the Australian Curriculum in the first four learning areas, and will adopt a similar approach as it develops an Australian Curriculum in further learning areas, including Health and Physical Education. Consultation will provide opportunities for the education community to raise issues and propose the inclusion of specific content, such as content in relation to body image, for consideration in the development of the Australian Curriculum. Further information about the development of the Australian Curriculum is available at [www.acara.edu.au](http://www.acara.edu.au).

3. The Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs has affirmed the importance of promoting positive body image and the opportunity to do so in an education environment.

It is the responsibility of education authorities to decide if they include the promotion of positive body image in schools.