

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

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

**Outcome 2 - Schools**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0828\_11**

**Senator Mason provided in writing.**

**Question**

**ACARA'S 11 TARGET LANGUAGES**

What measures has the Department put in place to determine whether there is the capacity within the teaching profession to effectively teach ACARA's 11 target languages? What benchmarks are in place?

**Answer**

The draft *Shape of the Australian Curriculum: Languages* paper released by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) on 31 January 2011 proposes that ACARA develop Australian Curriculum for 11 languages.

The proposed languages include the most widely taught languages at the Year 12 level in Australian schools and languages significant to the development of Australia's trade and economic capacity, particularly in the Asian region.

Nationally, 24,922 Year 12 students were enrolled in tertiary accredited language courses in 2008. Approximately 90 per cent of these students enrolled in one or more of ACARA's proposed 11 languages, indicating there are teachers available to teach these languages.

As under current arrangements, state and territory education authorities will need to continue to supply teachers and meet demand for the proposed languages and others not included for development in the Australian Curriculum: Languages.

The development of Australian Curriculum for the identified languages will set out what students will learn for those languages, but will not make them compulsory for all schools and nor will it prevent schools from offering other languages.