

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2012-2013**

Agency - Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority

DEEWR Question No. EW0876_13

Senator Xenophon provided in writing.

Question

ACARA - Working with Australian education publishing industry

Is the department or Authority working with the Australian education publishing industry to support them in producing new resources for the National Curriculum, particularly in relation to digital resources?

Answer

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) has provided the following response.

ACARA is working with a range of providers, including the Australian education publishing industry, to support the development of resources for teaching and learning as outlined below.

1. Licensing the Australian Curriculum

1.1 Non-commercial use

The Australian Curriculum is accessible online, licensed under a creative commons licence, which gives broad terms of access for no fee for non-commercial use. This is consistent with Australian Government policy.

This creative commons licence does not cover commercial use. Any organisation or individual wishing to use the Australian Curriculum for commercial purposes must seek permission from ACARA.

1.2 Licensing the Australian Curriculum to commercial publishers

In 2012, ACARA introduced a new licensing system for commercial publishers who use the Australian Curriculum.

Instead of ACARA granting permission on a publication basis (requiring commercial publishers to seek permission from ACARA for each publication), ACARA now grants permission at an organisational level (each publisher signs a deed).

On signing the deed, permission is granted for most static uses of the Australian Curriculum (aligning products to the Australian Curriculum), subject to some standard terms of use. This licensing system includes both digital and hardcopy products and saves time and resources for commercial publishers and ACARA.

Currently, 23 commercial publishers have returned signed deeds. ACARA has issued a further 11 deeds and is waiting on signed copies to be returned.

ACARA worked closely with members of the Australian Publishers Association to develop and agree on the terms of the deed.

1.3 Requests to use all or most of the Australian Curriculum on commercial websites for dynamic use

ACARA is currently preparing a policy for consultation with the Australian Publishers Association and subsequent endorsement by its Board in relation to a model of licensing for commercial website providers.

This model would:

- allow them to host most or all of the Australian Curriculum for dynamic use
- include use of the Australian Curriculum in the development of curriculum planning tools, such as unit plans and lesson plans.

This is a more complex policy area, as there is greater potential for issues with version control, technical matters relating to generating a 'live feed' of the Australian Curriculum website, and other issues dealing with how the Australian Curriculum is used (to make sure its use is accurate and authentic).

2. Education Services Australia – digital resources

The Scootle website, www.scootle.edu.au/ec/p/home, provides teachers with access to more than 15,000 digital resources in the National Digital Learning Resources Network, which is managed by Education Services Australia (ESA). The ESA is a national, not-for-profit company owned by all Australian education ministers. Scootle has made finding and using digital resources aligned to the Australian Curriculum easy for teachers. Teachers can use learning paths to save and share favourite digital curriculum resources in themes or topics.

3. Australian Publishers Association

ACARA is working with the Australian Publishers Association to support them in their resource development work. Briefings sessions are convened by ACARA to provide timely and accurate information about general curriculum development and specific learning area curriculum. These sessions are generally held twice each year.