

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2013-2014**

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

Department of Education Question No. ED0246_14

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question

Australian Curriculum

In relation to the Government's review of the Australian Curriculum:

- a. Are the reviewers subject to any codes of conduct or other requirements? If so, what are the requirements the reviewers must comply with?
- b. Were the reviewers required to provide a conflict of interest declaration, or in some way identify to the Department and/or the Minister any conflicts of Interest that they have? If so, can the Department provide copies of any such declaration or disclosure?
- c. What is the nature of the secretariat and support arrangements the department is providing on behalf of Mr Donnelly and Mr Wiltshire? What is their cost to the department? Are any officers assigned to the review? How many?
- d. Will submission to the review be made public? Who will Mr Donnelly and Mr Wiltshire consult with? Have they met with the Department or the Minister? If so, please provide details of each occasion?
- e. Will the preliminary or final reports prepared by Mr Donnelly and Mr Wiltshire be made public? Will state Governments, ACARA and school systems have an opportunity to provide comment on the reports?

Answer

- a. The Reviewers are subject to disclosure and confidentiality provisions included in their Instrument of Appointment.
- b. Reviewers provided a Private Interests Declaration and a Conflict of Interest Declaration. By their nature, these documents are confidential.
- c. The Department of Education is providing general secretariat services for the Review, the cost of which is being absorbed by the department as part of its usual business. Two officers were assigned initially and an additional full time and three part time officers have been assigned to the Review during the submissions and consultations phases.
- d. Releasing submissions made to the Review is a decision of Government. Professor Wiltshire and Dr Donnelly will consult with education stakeholders, including state and territory government and non-government education authorities; state and territory organisations that represent parents; national organisations representing businesses, principals and teachers;

academics and the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority. Dr Donnelly met with the Department on 18 December 2013. Professor Wiltshire and Dr Donnelly met with the Department on 12 February 2014 and 26 March 2014.

- e. The release of the preliminary or final reports is a matter for Government. The Minister for Education has committed to discuss the final report with state and territory education ministers at the Ministerial Council.