

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

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

Agency - Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority

Department of Education Question No. ED0410_14

Senator Wright asked on 26 February 2014 , Hansard page 18

Question

ACARA - What expenditure has the government incurred in developing the Australian curriculum

Senator WRIGHT: So it is clearly a real work in progress; but this is, as you have indicated, Mr Randall, an extensive process over a long period of time. Perhaps we could ask for those details to be on notice. That would be helpful, thank you. What expenditure has the government incurred in developing the Australian curriculum up to the point that the minister announced the review to be led by Dr Donnelly and Professor Wiltshire? I understand you may need to provide an estimate here and then maybe take the precise figure on notice, but I just want a sense of what the costs have been up to this point. Mr Randall: The first part of my answer to the question will be that the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority is funded 50 per cent by the Australian government and 50 per cent by states and territories. Your question was the Australian government. Senator WRIGHT: Yes. Mr Randall: If you like, I will provide some figures here but maybe follow it up with the answer. Senator WRIGHT: Thank you. That would be helpful, and I would appreciate as much information as you can give now. ...

Mr Randall :I might, if you are agreeable, supplement what I have given you now with the project costs plus the salary costs on notice.

Answer

ACARA has provided the following response

Prior to ACARA becoming operational, the Interim National Curriculum Board was funded by the Commonwealth to initiate development of national curriculum. The figures below do not incorporate this funding.

The table below separates development of the Australian Curriculum for English, mathematics, science, history, geography, the arts, health and physical education, civics and citizenship, economic and business, languages, and technologies, which were funded by the Ministerial Council, from National Trade Cadetships curriculum, which was funded by the Commonwealth. State and Territory government funding contributions to the Australian Curriculum for English, mathematics, science, history, geography, the arts, health and physical education, civics and citizenship, economic and business, languages, and technologies, are not included below.

Total cost of curriculum development 28 May 2009 - 2014

	Australian Curriculum	NTC Yr 9 & 10 and NTC Yr 11 & 12	Total
Project Expenses¹	\$7,821,610	\$3,645,508	\$11,467,118
Salaries	\$9,966,206	\$838,350	\$10,804,556
Non-Project Expenses²	\$4,959,748	\$250,341	\$5,210,089
Total	\$22,747,564	\$4,734,199	\$27,481,763

¹ Project expenses include fees for contracted writers, advisors and critical friends and associated costs (accommodation, travel, food, vehicle hire, taxis), and project related staff costs (accommodation, travel, food, vehicle hire, taxis).

² Non-project expenses include advertising costs, lease costs for the Melbourne office, non-project related costs for curriculum staff (travel, accommodation and food), website hosting, meeting expenses, printing, equipment hire, video conferencing expenses, office supplies, minor equipment, stationery, subscriptions, and credit card charges.