

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

Agency - Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority

DEEWR Question No. EW0805_12

Senator Mason asked on 20 October 2011 , Hansard page 23

Question

ACARA - BC and AD terms

Senator MASON:.. They all use BC and AD. Niall Ferguson is probably the most pre-eminent historian in the world at the moment and he does not use those terms. In fact, I find them confusing. When I see BCE, I thought it was before the Christian era or something. I find those terms confusing. Does anyone know any popular historian who uses the terms BCE and CE? I do not know any.

Mr Randall: We could provide more detail about that.

continues on pg 24...

Mr Randall: That we will add the example of BC and AD as ongoing historical terms and concepts that we continue to want young people to learn in school. Senator

MASON: So what is going to happen to BCE and CE? Mr Randall: They would be there, because they continue to be terms that are used. On your point about references, I would be happy to provide to you a follow-up about the sources that will support the use of those terms.

Answer

ACARA – BC and AD terms

- Students will be supported to learn all historical terms appropriate for the study of history. This will include BCE/CE and BC/AD. The curriculum has been adjusted to ensure that this occurs.