

**Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-2014**

**Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth**

**Department of Education Question No. ED0166\_14**

**Senator Carr asked on 20 November 2013 , Hansard page 31**

**Question**

***Australian Education Act 2013 - Teacher Accreditation***

Senator Kim CARR: The existing act is in place and it is part of the schools program, the Better Schools program. States had to sign up to these provisions, right? Ms Paul: Yes, that is right. What I am saying is that you would need a ministerial— Senator Kim CARR: That is currently an act that provides legislative foundation to that change for the credentialing for schoolteachers in Australia? Ms Paul: No, I do not think so. What I am saying is I think—and I will check this, I will take this on notice— Senator Kim CARR: Is it part of the Australian Education Act 2013 or not? Ms Paul: I do not think this particular point is. Let me take on notice what might be covered in the act. What I am saying—sorry? Senator Kim CARR: My question goes to the new accreditation provisions of that act, and I just wanted to know whether or not there are any proposals to change the accreditation process that was covered in the 2013 act? CHAIR: Thank you, Senator Carr, and I think that will be taken on notice is my understanding at this point. Ms Paul: I will take it on notice but would I would like to say is I think a policy change would need to be considered by ministers. If there were a change, I am not sure that it would mean a legislative amendment, but that is what I will confirm for you.

**Answer**

The *Australian Education Regulation 2013*, pursuant to Section 22 of the *Australian Education Act 2013* (the Act), states that States and Territories must continue efforts to improve the quality of teachers through initiatives agreed by the Ministerial Council for nationally consistent teacher registration and accrediting initial teacher education courses.

As required by the *Australian Education Regulation 2013*, the Government will be consulting with stakeholders regarding any possible amendments to the Act to align with the Government's policy priorities.