

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000866

Senator Collins, Jacinta provided in writing.

Curriculum

Question

- Are the primary curriculum changes announced by then Education Minister Pyne in 2015 completed?
 - If not, can the Department please provide an update on progress?
- Minister Pyne's press release at the time also referenced strengthening "references to Western History" in the Australian curriculum – what work has the Department done to pursue this objective?
- What languages are being worked on within the secondary language curriculum?

Answer

On 18 September 2015 Education Council endorsed the Foundation to Year 10 Australian Curriculum across the eight key learning areas, including revisions made by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) following the 2014 Review of the Australian Curriculum. Consistent with their responsibility for curriculum implementation, state and territory education authorities are currently transitioning to the latest version of the Australian Curriculum.

ACARA's revisions to the Australian Curriculum: Humanities and Social Sciences included strengthening the representation of Western influences on Australia's system of government, the role of founders and key features of constitutional development, beliefs and values of Christianity and the role of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the executive arm of government.

In late 2015 Education Council endorsed the Foundation to Year 10 Australian Curriculum: Languages covering thirteen languages. These are: Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), French, German, Hindi, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Modern Greek, Spanish, Turkish, Vietnamese and the framework for Aboriginal languages and Torres Strait Islander languages.

Currently, frameworks for classical languages (Greek and Latin) and Auslan (Australian Sign Language) are being finalised and will be submitted to Education Council for endorsement by the end of 2016.