

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2010-2011**

**Agency - Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0714\_11**

**Senator Mason provided in writing.**

**Question**

**ACARA SIGN LANGUAGE**

Why has Australian Sign Language (Auslan) not been included as a language in the National Curriculum?

**Answer**

ACARA has provided the following response.

The *Draft Shape of the Australian Curriculum: Languages* paper provides a framework for curriculum development of all languages, including Australian sign language (Auslan). See page 5 of the draft shape paper.

For reasons of manageability, language-specific curriculum development within the Australian Curriculum will be staged according to the following criteria:

- coverage of the maximum number of students, the most widely currently studied languages in Australian schools and anticipated future trends
- Australian Government priorities (notably the current priority on four Asian languages)
- languages most widely spoken by particular communities in Australia
- community support
- languages of global importance
- immigration trends
- economic significance.

Given the above criteria, Auslan is not included in the first three stages of language-specific curriculum development. It is anticipated that language curricula not immediately developed as part of the Australian Curriculum: Languages will continue to be offered under existing state and territory arrangements.