

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

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

Agency - Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority

DEEWR Question No.EW0402_11

Senator Mason asked on 3/06/2010, Hansard page 127.

Question

**ACARA - LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AS A CROSS-CURRICULUM
PERSPECTIVE**

Senator MASON—I understand there is a learning area. There is a learning area that touches on each of these cross-curriculum perspectives. The fact that a learning area touches on cross-curriculum perspectives does not void it from being a cross-curriculum perspective. Why do we not have something like that? Why do we not have a debate about that? The national curriculum is a huge issue right across the country. All our school kids are doing this. I have suggested the role and importance of liberal democratic institutions. I reckon that is pretty important. Why would that not be included as one of the cross-curriculum perspectives? Mr Randall—The documents that are there for the moment are subject to the consultation and the feedback can come. In terms of commitment, as I said earlier on, the focus of the learning areas is on English, maths, science and history. Civics and citizenship will come. Part of my answer earlier on was that they are the prime focus for the curriculum. Senator MASON—I accept that. I accept, as I keep saying, that liberal democratic institutions could be part of civics or whatever you call it. Each one of the cross-curriculum perspectives that you have here would be part of a specific learning area, as well as being a cross-curriculum perspective. So are you going to go back and have a think about my suggestion?

Answer

ACARA has provided the following response.

Yes.