

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

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

Agency – Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority

**Department of Education Question No. ED0043_14
Senator Carr provided in writing**

Question

Subject - ACARA – agency funding

The Government's election costings provided to the Parliamentary Budget Office indicate a \$7 million reduction in the agency's funding in the 2013-14 financial year, and a \$6 million reduction in funding in each of the following financial years. In relation to these changes in the budget: What actions will the agency take to reduce expenditure by \$7mill in the current financial year? Will any staff lose their jobs? What programs and divisions will be disbanded or decreased in size and scope? And what will be the particular impacts of making a \$7 million saving in just half a financial year? Will any changes to the *My School* website occur because of budget reductions faced by ACARA, in 2014 or beyond?

Answer

ACARA has provided the following response.

ACARA has not received any written communication from the Australian Government about refocusing the agency or any funding reduction. Representatives of ACARA have met with the Minister to discuss a range of matters including the Government's election policy. Until formal direction is received from the Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood, ACARA will continue with its current work programme and budget¹ as endorsed by the Standing Council.

¹ Note: ACARA receives some Commonwealth funding for specific projects such as National Assessment and Surveys Online Project (NASOP) which is separate from the funding provided by SCSEEC. ACARA is also not aware, at this stage, of intended changes to this funding.