

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015**

Outcome: Agency: ACARA

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000035

Senator O'Neill, Deborah asked on 25 February 2015, Hansard page 62

ACARA - report to Education Council

Question

Senator O'NEILL: Could you provide us with an outline of the reports, assessments and research that underpinned the report that you are providing—where you got your information?

Mr Randall: I expect I can give you a summary, an outline of that, yes.

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Senator O'NEILL: Of the 30 recommendations from ACARA, which ones are you taking on board and making adjustments to your work based on?

Mr Randall: I am happy to come back to you. I understand your question

Answer

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority has provided the following response.

On considering the Review of the Australian Curriculum at their December 2014 meeting, Education Council noted five themes put to it by the Australian Government and referred the recommendations relating to four of the themes to ACARA for advice. These themes are:

- resolving the overcrowded curriculum
- improving parental engagement around the curriculum
- improving accessibility for all students
- rebalancing the curriculum.

In addition to the final report of the Review of the Australian Curriculum and the initial Australian Government response, ACARA considered other sources of information including state and territory curriculum and school authorities, website feedback, media scans, national assessment program data and international testing data.

ACARA's findings from its 2014 monitoring process were noted by Education Council in late 2014 and were consistent with themes identified in the review, including resolving overcrowding in the primary curriculum; the need to make phonics, spelling, vocabulary and grammar more explicit; and the need for increased clarity in the identification of general capabilities across learning areas/subjects.

ACARA's advice was considered at the 5 March 2015 Education Council meeting. Council noted ACARA's advice and endorsed proposed actions in relation to the four themes.