QUESTION ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015

Outcome: Agency: ACARA

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000057

Senator O'Neill, Deborah asked on 25 February 2015, Hansard page 50

ACARA - future demand for languages and classical Greek

Question
Senator O'NEILL: How do you anticipate the future demand for those language skills, in terms of the skills that need developing in the country?
Mr Randall: In terms of languages and classical Greek?
Senator O'NEILL: Yes.
Mr Randall: I will get you some advice on that.

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

Feedback on the draft *Shape of the Australian Curriculum: Languages* paper indicated strong support for the development of classical languages. The development of classical languages was specifically requested by:

- South Australia – Department of Education and Children's Services (DECS)
- New South Wales – Board of Studies, Teaching & Educational Standards (BOSTES)

The Education Council agreed to direct ACARA to develop curricula for 7-10 classical languages, along with Hindi, Turkish and Auslan, at its 15 August 2014 meeting.

Classical languages are studied because of historical significance, providing learners with a key to the literature, history, thought, and culture of the ancient world. Classical languages are a bridge between the contemporary world and the civilizations of antiquity.

Classical languages provide:

- a platform for learning other languages, particularly the Romance languages of Spanish, Italian, French, Portuguese, Modern Greek and Modern Hebrew,
- a very strong grounding for understanding any Romance language (vis-à-vis the vocabulary of Latin),
- students with a better understanding of English grammar (while neither the language nor grammar of English derives from Latin, many of the grammatical rules do).

Learning languages:

- extends the ability to communicate,
- builds literacy capabilities,
- strengthens understanding of the nature of language, of culture, and of the processes of communication,
- develops intercultural capability; develops understanding of, and respect for, diversity and difference, and an openness to different perspectives and experiences,
- develops understanding of how values and culture shape world views and extends learners' understanding of themselves, their own heritages, values, cultures, and identities.