Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome: Agency: ACARA

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000023

Senator O'Neill, Deborah asked on 10 February 2016, Proof Hansard page 33

ACARA: Development of EALD resource and support for students with disabilities

Question

Senator O'NEILL: ... —in terms of work on the Australian curriculum, could you give me a bit of an update on the work that is under way to include students with disabilities and those for whom English is an additional language or dialect?
Senator O'NEILL: Okay. That would probably be one of the things that I am going to ask for in terms of the milestone moment of agreement. If you could provide—I do not know if you will be able to do it today—any milestones, including consultations, testing of concepts and materials.
Mr Randall: Around the development of the resource?
Senator O'NEILL: Yes.
Mr Randall: I will take that on notice and provide that for you.
Senator O'NEILL: Thank you. And anything about its implementation, uptake, et cetera, of course, which we just referred to earlier.
Mr Randall: Sure.
...
Senator O'NEILL: So that is for the students for whom English is an additional language or dialect

Answer

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

ACARA led substantial work to support the teaching of the F-10 Australian Curriculum with English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EAL/D) students. The EALD Teacher Resource includes:

* EAL/D Overview and Advice (updated February 2014)

* EAL/D Learning Progression: Foundation to Year 10 (updated June 2015)

* Annotated Content Descriptions for English, Mathematics, Science and History Foundation to Year 10 (updated February 2014)

* Illustrations of practice reflecting the EAL/D Learning Progression Foundation to Year 10 (updated February 2014).

As per advice on the Australian Curriculum website, the purpose of the EAL/D Teacher Resources is to support teachers as they develop personalised teaching and learning programs in the Australian Curriculum: Foundation to Year 10 for EAL/D students. The EAL/D Teacher Resource contains detailed information about EAL/D learners, specific advice about cultural and linguistic considerations, and useful teaching strategies to support EAL/D students.

ACARA's development process of the teacher resource included consultation and subsequent revisions of all EAL/D resources during 2011 to 2012. Consultation occurred with state and territory education authorities, academic experts and individuals. Ongoing consultation included advice from academics including Dr Misty Adoniou (University of Canberra) and Dr Michael Michel (University of New South Wales).

Since publication of improvements to the Australian Curriculum in October 2015, work is being undertaken to update related aspects of the resource. In March-April 2016, some revision and renewal of the EALD resource materials, particularly the *EAL/D annotated content descriptions English F-10*, will take place. This work is likely to be supported by advice from experts in the ACT and the Northern Territory, the latter jurisdiction having a particular and distinctive interest in this aspect of the curriculum.

No additional EAL/D work has been requested by the Education Council under ACARA's work plan.

In relation to work underway to better support teachers of students with disability (SWD), please refer to Question No. SQ16-000024.