

**Senate Committee: Education and Employment**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016**

**Outcome: Agency: ACARA**

**Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000024**

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

***ACARA: support for students with disabilities***

**Question**

Senator O'NEILL: ... Could you give me some indication of, perhaps, again, those key milestones, the process of consultation, curriculum development and material, testing of concepts, et cetera, for students with disabilities?

....

Senator O'NEILL: I am familiar with the ABLES program.

Mr Cook: That is Victoria. They have led very strongly on that, and I understand they have shared that with a number of other states. But I do not know which ones they are, I am sorry.

Mr Randall: I am happy to take this on notice. We have the list of what we are publishing. It would then be a matter of making sure we can do all the links and publish it in a form. I have referred to a range of resources that exist. With your New South Wales background, you would be more familiar with the New South Wales policy and approach to inclusion from a curriculum design and implementation point of view.

Senator O'NEILL: Yes.

**Answer**

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

To develop suggested actions to better support teachers of students with disability (SWD), ACARA has undertaken consultation with the members of its Students with Disability Advisory Group; curriculum and senior special education officers in schooling authorities in each Australian state and territory; representatives of national bodies (including the National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC) and Independent Schools Council of Australia (ISCA); the presidents of the Australian Special Education Principals Association and the Australian Association of Special Education; academics with expertise in disability and inclusivity; and representatives of support and advocacy groups including Children with Disability Australia, Down Syndrome Australia and Learning Links. For a full list of individuals and organisations consulted, and membership of ACARA's students with disability advisory group, please refer to Question No. SQ16-000025.

Following the Review of the Australian Curriculum and consultation by ACARA on actions to be taken in response to the review to enhance accessibility for students with disability, ACARA provided advice to Education Council in September 2015. The below table indicates the key milestones for ACARA to reach in order to enhance accessibility for students with disability.

<b>Key milestones to enhance accessibility for students with disability</b>	<b>Date (2016)</b>
Commence identification of schools	9 Feb
Students with disability advisory group feedback	5 April
Finish filming and draft examples	29 April
Finish editing	10 June
Approval by students with disability advisory group	15 June
ACARA Board approval	23 June
Publication	30 June

Education Council approved three (3) actions proposed by ACARA, to be completed by 30 June 2016. ACARA will:

1. *Provide access to relevant resources developed for teachers of students with significant intellectual disability via the diversity section of the Australian Curriculum website.*

Resources have been collected from states, territories and other stakeholders and a consolidated, annotated list is being prepared. The next step is to circulate the consolidated list to stakeholders for feedback ahead of ACARA Board approval and publication on the Australian Curriculum website, scheduled for June 2016.

2. *Add to the Australian Curriculum website additional illustrations of practice focusing on how teachers plan and make age-appropriate adjustments for students with significant intellectual disability.*

ACARA has sought and received school nominations from states and territories and engaged a team to conduct the filming. Final school viability assessments are being carried out and filming schedules being developed ahead of filming in April 2016.

3. *Include examples of different ways students might demonstrate what they know, understand and can do to the Australian Curriculum general capabilities continua for literacy, numeracy, and personal and social capability.*

ACARA will include examples of different ways students might demonstrate what they know, understand and can do to the Australian Curriculum general capabilities continua for literacy, numeracy, and personal and social capability.