

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000033

Senator McKim, asked on 10 February 2016, Proof Hansard page 42

Number of teachers in Australia teaching in the STEM area

Question

Senator McKIM: Do we know how many teachers in Australia are teaching in the STEM area, out of field—in other words, teaching maths and science without any real expertise or qualification?

Ms Evans: We do not have a national picture on that, although some states and territories undertake their own data collections around that. So there are some general suppositions but nationally we do not know that accurately.

Senator McKIM: Is AITSL in possession of that data on a state basis?

Ms Evans: No.

Senator O'NEILL: Perhaps the minister might have that information.

Senator McKIM: That is actually a reasonable suggestion by Senator O'Neill. Minister, are you aware of whether your department may have access to state based information about how many teachers are teaching out of field currently?

Senator Birmingham: No, and I do not believe that the Commonwealth department has that data of state arrangements.

Senator McKIM: Could I just ask that you take that on notice.

Senator Birmingham: We are happy to take that on notice.

Answer

The Department does not have access to state-based information about how many teachers are teaching out of field.

Some analysis of out of field teaching can be found in *Staff in Australia's schools 2013: Main report on the survey* (page 66) and the supplementary report *Profiles of Teachers in Selected Curriculum Areas: Further Analyses of the Staff in Australia's Schools 2013 Survey* (page 25, 26).

Links to these two reports are below:

http://research.acer.edu.au/tll_misc/20/

http://research.acer.edu.au/tll_misc/22/