

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome: Agency: ACARA

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000301

Senator O'Neill, Deborah asked on 04 June 2015, Proof Hansard page 50

ACARA: digital curriculum

Question

Senator O'NEILL: If the digital curriculum were endorsed today, what is the earliest we would see it implemented in classrooms?

Mr Cook: Senator, my understanding is that it already is. As we made very clear—

Senator O'NEILL: It is available but not endorsed.

Mr Cook: No. States and territories are using it. So Tasmania, for example, is using the material, I understand, based on a request that came in November last year after the meeting. So the materials have actually been available to use. They are being used in the classroom. That is my understanding.

Senator O'NEILL: But they are not being used right across the country because this program has not been endorsed. Some judicious concern and holdback is happening from a range of states and territories.

Mr Cook: It is endorsed while being used across the country as well.

CHAIR: Mr Randall?

Mr Randall: I am happy again to take on notice exactly the state of implementation. But as Mr Cook and Senator Ryan have said, they are at various stages. I said earlier that the curriculum is being used and people are engaging with it. I cannot give you a state by state summary here and now. I am happy to take that on board. But the curriculum was clearly made available. Various education ministers said that they would be able to take it up and start working with it. So that was not seen as a barrier to people starting to take it up. I was going to add earlier that it is not just a matter of endorsement. English, maths, science and history were all endorsed, but the implementation timelines for those varied around the country. You made a point earlier about whether they will start next year. They will deal with them in their own timeframes. Each state and territory has a position on it. I am happy to take on notice, if that would help, an overview of where it is at to our knowledge; we do keep in touch with it. I do not have in front of me what each state and territory is doing with it. My rough recollection is I ask and have conversations about it. There is a lot of activity with that curriculum. Its lack of endorsement is not inhibiting many people, that is for sure.

Answer

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

Below is a summary of implementation plans for Australian Curriculum: Digital Technologies:

- Australian Capital Territory: optional implementation in 2016 and implementation in 2017
- Northern Territory: waiting for endorsement
- New South Wales: no announcement relating to Phase 2 and 3 subjects
- Queensland: currently developing Curriculum to Classroom (C2C) materials, trialling and optional implementation in 2016 and implementation in 2017

- South Australia: currently trialling, optional implementation in 2016 and implementation in 2017
- Tasmania: waiting for endorsement, however Tasmanian Catholic Education Office have run workshops and are planning implementation for Years 5 and 6 in 2016.
- Victoria: optional implementation in 2016 and implementation in 2017 (F-10)
- Western Australia: currently developing year level syllabuses for Technologies.