

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome: Agency: ACARA

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000302

Senator O'Neill, Deborah asked on 04 June 2015, Proof Hansard page 54

ACARA: coding in the curriculum

Question

Senator O'NEILL: I will still be here for 1.3, so I will come back to it then. Since the announcement of the \$3.5 million, has ACARA been consulted about how to support coding in the curriculum? You are the curriculum authority.

Mr Randall: Senator, I do not recall—

CHAIR: Senator, you have just moved on to another topic?

Senator O'NEILL: No.

Mr Randall: I do not recall. Again, I stand to be corrected. My officers may have spoken to department officers, providing general information and the like. Just so I am clear on that, I would need to take it on notice. The point I made earlier is that the curriculum officers involved in the work may have given some information, some explanatory material, or pointed to things on our website, which I could say is an example of consultation, but I do not know that here. At my level, I do not recall being involved in a detailed consultation about it. I will go back to my previous answer. The curriculum is there. The department has its role. The government has its role in terms of supporting implementation, just as the states and territories do. I do not assume that that would automatically happen. If there is some query about the curriculum, it may happen that someone seeks our advice. To the extent it has or has not, if you want me to, I am happy to ask officers whether they have been in conversations. But my answer at the moment is that I am not surprised, because the curriculum has been—you have said it here—subject to consultation. It is available on our website. There is a whole range of people working with it to support its implementation. We applaud that. We are happy to support and work with people, but we do not need to be consulted on people doing things to support its implementation

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Senator O'NEILL: Thank you for offering to do some work with regard to that. I will take you up on your offer. On notice, could you—

Mr Randall: My staff will be happy that I volunteered to do that!

Senator O'NEILL: I am sure they will be delighted! Could you find out if there has been any formal consultation, correspondence—

Mr Randall: Sure.

Senator O'NEILL: communication or meetings, including dates et cetera, when the Australian curriculum authority was consulted by the minister or the department about the investment of \$3.5 million for rolling out supporting coding in the curriculum?

Mr Randall: I am happy to do that.

Answer

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

ACARA officers met with officers from the Department of Education and Training regarding the Coding across the curriculum project on 2 June 2015. The focus of the meeting was on sharing information about the project and identifying stakeholders that would be able to assist with the project.