

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

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

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000307

Senator O'Neill, Deborah asked on 04 June 2015, Proof Hansard page 67

Education Council paper – Science and maths curriculum

Question

Senator O'NEILL: Can you provide me with any more detail on the paper the minister took to the council, or can I have a copy of it?

Mr Cook: I am happy to take that on notice. It is a COAG paper. It is normally under the confidentiality of COAG councils, but I am happy to take it on notice. The communique provides some advice, which actually was the decision by council.

CHAIR: They are public documents.

Mr Cook: The communique is available on the website.

Answer

The paper presented to the Education Council on 29 May 2015 sought agreement on development of a national science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) school education strategy.

As per the Council's communique, Ministers discussed initiatives relating to the participation and performance of Australian school students in STEM. Ministers agreed to collaborate nationally in developing a STEM school education strategy for increasing STEM participation in schools. Senior officials will report back to ministers on the strategy later in the year.