

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

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

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000322

Senator O'Neill, Deborah asked on 04 June 2015, Proof Hansard page 83

Review of ACARA

Question

Senator O'NEILL: So the government made this promise to transfer data reporting and compliance functions back to the department. Is that still the government's intention?

Mr Cook: That is a decision for government.

Senator Ryan: Yes.

Senator O'NEILL: It is still the government's intention?

Senator Ryan: And it will take on notice if there has been a change. But, as far as I know, there is not. As Mr

Cook said, the minister will be receiving the review shortly.

Senator O'NEILL: What is the vehicle to achieve that?

Senator Ryan: I will take that on notice. That is a direct responsibility of the minister.

Senator O'NEILL: Is there a timeframe?

Senator Ryan: I will take it on notice.

Answer

The Australian Government's *Students First* policy commits the Government to refocusing the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) and absorbing its data and research functions into the Department of Education and Training. The policy does not specify a particular timeframe for action.

The Review of ACARA is being conducted as required by Section 44 of the *ACARA Act 2008*, which states that the review must start six years after enactment of the relevant legislation and be completed within six months. The review is being conducted by the department and will assess the appropriateness of ACARA's ongoing role and functions against the aims and objectives described in its charter.