

**Senate Committee: Education and Employment**

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

**Outcome: Agency: ACARA**

**Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000534**

Senator O'Neill, Deborah provided in writing

***ACARA: Review of the Australian Curriculum***

**Question**

1. Please provide an update on your work on the review of the Australian Curriculum?
2. Did ACARA provide any updates to the Education Ministers' council at its most recent meeting?
3. When do we expect to see any changes to the Australian Curriculum as a result of this review?
4. Referring to the development of the Australian Curriculum, can you please outline the work underway to include students with disabilities and those for whom English is an additional language. Can you please outline any milestones, including consultation and testing.
5. Have you consulted with any stakeholders on this work?

**Answer**

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

To resolve the overcrowded primary curriculum and rebalance the curriculum ACARA, in collaboration with a sample of practising primary teachers and writers, has drafted changes to the Australian Curriculum. These changes were the subject of consultation with 185 key stakeholders including key national and state and territory educational organisations, and were revised based on stakeholder feedback. Documentation is being prepared for ministerial endorsement of the revised Australian Curriculum content descriptions and achievement standards.

To address improvements to accessibility for all students ACARA has consulted with twenty three key stakeholders, advocacy groups, experts and academics; reviewed approaches taken to support students with significant intellectual disability in a selection of countries; and identified options for the ACARA Board to consider in response to this theme.

To improve parental access to the Australian Curriculum ACARA has consulted with eleven peak parent bodies and other key stakeholders to develop directions for the development of parent materials once the revised curriculum has been endorsed by ministers.

Ministers were provided with a general progress report by ACARA at their meeting on 29 May 2015. The report included reference to work to address outcomes of the Review of the Australian Curriculum. It is anticipated that the education ministers will consider the changes to the Australian Curriculum and the options for action in relation to accessibility for all students at their meeting currently scheduled in September 2015. Following ministerial endorsement the revised Australian Curriculum will be made publically available.

No new work or actions were undertaken to English as an additional language or dialect materials as a result of the review of the Australian Curriculum.