

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000573

Senator O'Neill, Deborah provided in writing

Literacy and numeracy test

Question

1. Please provide an update on the literacy and numeracy test?
2. At the last Senate Estimates ACARA said sample items for the literacy would be available within the month, please supply a sample item?
3. Please provide a timeline for the finalisation of the test - will the test be ready for implementation in 2016?
4. Please outline the work that ACER is doing to refine the test?
5. There were 1,300 teacher training students who completed that test initially, have any more undertaken the test and are there any plans for more to participate in the trial?
6. Have there been any changes to the rollout of the test since the release of the TEMAG report?
7. In relation to the achievement level of the test to be at the top 30 per cent of the overall population, has this target been met in the trial?
8. Has there been any proposal to the Education Minister's Council to review that standard?
9. Please provide an update on the progress working with states and territories, regulators and providers towards implementation?
10. What was the budget for the literacy and numeracy test, and has this budget been exceeded?
11. There is a contract on AusTender with ACER for the Finalisation of the Trial of the Literacy and Numeracy Test. This is in addition to the additional \$655,000 provided to ACER, is this because the project has been delayed?

Answer

Phased implementation of the Test will commence in August 2015 ahead of national roll-out in 2016.

The Test will be available for up to 5000 initial teacher education students this year. National implementation will commence from 1 July 2016. ACER will use the results from up to 5000 students sitting the Test in 2015 to provide final validation of the preliminary benchmark determined following the 2014 trial of the Test.

Sample items will be available on the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) website (www.acer.edu.au) in July 2015.

The pass mark for the Test has been set to ensure that all successful candidates are within the top 30 per cent of the adult population.

There has been no proposal to Education Council.

The department is working collaboratively with all major stakeholders towards implementation.

The development and trialling of the Test was undertaken under a contract between the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) and ACER. It is expected that this work will be completed within budget.

This contract is not due to any delay. There is no delay to the implementation of the initiative. The Australian Government has committed \$0.9 million in 2014–15 and 2015–16 to implement the Test from 2015.