

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

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

Outcome: Agency: ACARA

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000584

Senator O'Neill, Deborah provided in writing.

ACARA: staffing

Question

In relation to the restructure of Assessment and Reporting:

1. Please provide the date that ACARA staff in these areas were:
 - a. first advised of a restructure in 2013/14,
 - b. finally advised that the restructure was complete in 2014/15,
2. Provide a copy of the written advice which went to Assessment and Reporting staff on these dates.
3. What were the reasons for the restructure being unresolved for this period?
4. What further restructure/s does ACARA plan in its Assessment and Reporting areas for the 2015/16 year? What is the intended duration of any such actions.
5. Does ACARA plan any restructures elsewhere in its structure for the 2015/16 year? What is the intended duration of any such actions.

Answer

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

1. Assessment and Reporting (A&R) restructure
 - a. On 20/5/2014, all staff were advised of the restructure at an All Staff meeting. On 16/6/2014 (all staff were updated by email)
 - b. On 7/10/2014, the CEO advised all A&R staff that the process was complete except that the remaining positions subject to possible redundancy (4 Senior Project Officers reducing to 3 positions) would have contracts extended to 31/1/2015. The three remaining positions were confirmed (from 3/2/2015) following the internal appointment of one affected staff member to another position within ACARA. This finalised the A&R restructure.
2. Provide a copy of the written advice:
 - a. 20/5/2014 was Verbal – no written advice.
 - b. 7/10/2014. Attached is the email sent to all A&R staff, titled '*Update on A&R structure*'. Names and contact details have been redacted for privacy reasons.
3. The timeline for this restructure was extended because of the appointment of a new General Manager, Assessment & Reporting (21/7/2014) and subsequent senior appointments during the following months.
4. There are currently no plans for an Assessment & Reporting restructure in the 2015/16 year.
5. There are currently no plans for further ACARA restructures in the 2015/16 year.