

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

Department of Education Question No. ED0563_15

Senator O'Neill provided in writing.

Question

Curriculum review

In relation to the Curriculum review: a. Can the Department outline the process undertaken to draft the review? b. Who drafted the document? c. Did the Department discuss the process of drafting of the review with the Minister's office? d. How many drafts were prepared? When was the first draft provided to the Minister? e. Who decided which recommendations to include in the report? f. What role did the Departmental staff in the secretariat play in drafting the report and its recommendations? g. When will the Government seek the agreement of states and territories to the curriculum? h. In which school year does the government anticipate changes arising from the review to be made to the curriculum? i. Can the Department provide an update on the total cost of the review? j. Can the Department provide a detailed breakdown of the total cost? k. Does the Department anticipate any additional costs to be incurred by the review, and if so can you quantify those costs? l. Are the reviewers (Donnelly and Wiltshire) still considered to be engaged under the review? What additional services will they provide, and when are those expected to be completed? m. In an answer to a Question on Notice, the Department also advised that there were three full-time and four part-time staff on the Secretariat. Was that the case for the remainder of the review process? Is the secretariat still operating, and if so what are they doing? n. The reviewers are contracted to be paid \$429 per day, according to the Department's disclosure under a Senate Order relating to Government appointments. What is the total amount that has been paid, and agreed to be paid, to Mr Donnelly, and Mr Wiltshire (each)? o. How many days does the Department agree they have worked on the review, and how has that been determined? p. Why weren't submissions to the review made public earlier? q. Did the Department receive legal advice around whether submissions could be published online? When was that advice sought, and what was the result of that advice? r. When will the Government release a final response to the review?

Answer

- a) Professor Ken Wiltshire AO and Dr Kevin Donnelly decided on the format of the final report and discussed which parts of the report each would write.
- b) Professor Wiltshire and Dr Donnelly drafted the final report for the Review of the Australian Curriculum.
- c) The process of drafting the document was not discussed with the Minister's Office.

- d) Eleven drafts were prepared. The Minister did not receive any of the drafts for the Review. The Minister received the final report on Friday 14 August 2014.
- e) Professor Wiltshire and Dr Donnelly decided on the recommendations to go into the final report.
- f) The secretariat supported Professor Wiltshire and Dr Donnelly with drafting, formatting and editing of the final report on request.
- g) The Australian Government will take the final report to Education Council on Friday 12 December 2014.
- h) Changes to the Australian Curriculum will be decided by Education Council.
- i) The cost of the Review as at Monday 3 November 2014 is \$283,157.71
- j) The breakdown of expenditure for the Review is:

Review of the Australian Curriculum	Budget allocation	Total expenditure (as at 3 November)
budget allocation	\$300,000.00	
remuneration of members		\$54,085.64*
domestic travel		\$42,261.68
venue costs		\$1940.76
consultant fees		\$184,869.63
Total		\$283,157.71

*This figure includes the per diem and superannuation.

- k) The department does not anticipate any further costs associated with the Review.
- l) Professor Wiltshire and Dr Donnelly are no longer engaged to do work for the Review.
- m) There were four part-time staff members (equivalent to three full time staff members) on the Review secretariat until 14 August 2014. Currently there is the equivalent of two full- time staff members working on review related business.
- n) Professor Wiltshire was paid \$25,096.50 (plus superannuation) and Dr Donnelly was paid \$24,882.00 (plus superannuation). This was the agreed amount of remuneration as per the instrument of appointment.
- o) Both Professor Wiltshire and Dr Donnelly worked on the Review for 58 days each. The Reviewers provided time sheets to the department outlining the days that they worked on the Review.
- p) The submissions were made public at the same time as the release of the final report as per common practice.

- q) The department received legal advice on the submissions regarding issues to do with privacy, consent and third party identification. In response to legal advice, the department removed information in 250 submissions that related to privacy, consent or third party identification. The department elected not to publish one submission as it was deemed not relevant to the topic of the Australian Curriculum.
- r) Release of a final response is a matter for Government.