

**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. ED0600\_15**

**Senator Wright asked on 22 October 2014 , Hansard page 12**

**Question**

**Professor Barry Spurr's involvement in the curriculum review**

Senator WRIGHT: I have some questions for Senator Payne, representing the minister about the curriculum review, and in particular the involvement of Professor Barry Spurr. The education minister has said that his office had nothing to do with Professor Spurr's selection as a reviewer. However, Professor Spurr's e-mails reveal that he received a request from the education minister to review the Californian high school curriculum. First of all, can you confirm if that is correct? Senator Payne: I cannot, Senator. But I am happy to take that on notice and seek advice.

**Answer**

Neither the Hon Christopher Pyne MP, Minister for Education, nor his Office had any contact with Professor Barry Spurr regarding the Review of the Australian Curriculum.

Professor Spurr was selected By Professor Ken Wiltshire AO and Dr Kevin Donnelly to be a subject matter specialist for the *Australian Curriculum: English*. This selection included a request to benchmark the *Australian Curriculum: English* against the California Common Core Standards: English language, arts and literacy.