

**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. ED0601\_15**

**Senator Wright asked on 22 October 2014 , Hansard page 13**

**Question**

**Contact with Professor Spurr**

Senator WRIGHT: I am interested in knowing how many times the education minister or his office contacted Professor Spurr in the course of his work as a reviewer on the national curriculum review. Ms Paul: We have been advised that there has been no contact. Senator WRIGHT: The advice as to the education department or the minister and the minister's office? Senator Payne: The minister. Ms Paul: The minister and his office. Senator WRIGHT: If you could confirm, because that is inconsistent with what is one of the e-mails. Ms Paul: Well, that is not what I am advised. My advice is that there was no involvement in the engagement and so on. Senator WRIGHT: So the engagement is one issue, but the ongoing work that he is doing. You understand the question I am asking? Ms Paul: Indeed. Senator WRIGHT: I am interested to know if any other reviewers were given any directions that could be characterised as being similar to that assertion in the Professor's e-mail by the education minister as to what to consider in their reviews? Ms Paul: I don't believe so, and that is because our view of things was that the minister was very careful to stay removed from the review. So the minister was actually very conservative about even how many times he met with the reviewers. He let the reviewers do their thing. It is the two reviewers I'm talking about now. In terms of the minister or his office meeting with anyone else who were working to those reviewers, I would be surprised. I don't think that happened. Senator O'NEILL: Again, if you could take that on notice and confirm that answer

**Answer**

The Hon Christopher Pyne MP, Minister for Education, and his Office did not have any contact with any of the subject matter specialists.

The subject matter specialists were provided with a scoping brief from Professor Ken Wiltshire AO and Dr Kevin Donnelly. The outline of this brief was published on 17 June 2014 as an attachment to the preliminary report on the Review of the Australian Curriculum.

The secretariat for the Review progressed the contract arrangements for the subject matter specialists.