

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2012-2013**

Agency - Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority

DEEWR Question No. EW0875_13

Senator Xenophon provided in writing.

Question

ACARA - Use of Australian text books or resources

In relation to the implementation of the National Curriculum, are there any minimum requirements regarding the use of Australian text books or resources?

- Alternatively, is the curriculum based around Australian texts and resources?

Answer

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

Jurisdictions, systems and schools are responsible for the implementation of the Australian Curriculum. Implementation will occur in ways that value teachers' professional knowledge, reflect local contexts and take into account students' family, cultural and community backgrounds.

The Australian Curriculum is not aligned to any particular text or resource. Schools and teachers determine pedagogical and other delivery considerations. However, Australian Curriculum content provides significant opportunity for teachers to draw on Australian texts and resources as they plan teaching and learning programs for students.

Some examples include:

- The *Australian Curriculum: English F-10* includes the use of texts that are judged to have potential for enriching the lives of students, expanding the scope of their experience, and because they represent effective and interesting features of form and style. These include the oral narrative traditions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, texts from Australia's immigrant cultures, and texts of the students' choice.
- The *Australian Curriculum: History F-10* includes content that enables students to develop an understanding of Australian history, and of the past and present experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

- The *Australian Curriculum: Science F-10* provides opportunities for students to develop an understanding of science's contribution to our culture and society.