

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2013-2014**

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

Department of Education Question No. ED0310_14

Senator Lines provided in writing.

Question

Donnelly Wiltshire inquiry into the National Curriculum

1. Can the Government please explain what is the “crisis” or “problem” with the agreed national curriculum as it stands that warrants the expenditure of employing the Donnelly Wiltshire inquiry into the national curriculum? 2. Mr Donnelly’s public comments about cross curricular components of the curriculum reveal a complete misunderstanding of this concept. The department indicates that Mr Donnelly and Mr Wiltshire were selected from a short list after this public faux pas. 3. Please outline the processes undertaken to seek independent respected educational leaders for the short list. 4. Who was on that short list? 5. Please outline the connections that Mr Donnelly and Mr Wiltshire have had over their professional lives with the Liberal Party or its agencies or representatives. 6. If there are any, please provide a list of peer reviewed academic publications on curriculum published by Mr Donnelly and Mr Wiltshire. Copies of same if they exist would be appreciated.

Answer

1. The reasons supporting the Australian Government’s Review of the Australian Curriculum can be found in the Government’s *Students First* policy. The reviewers are considering curriculum content, the process of curriculum development and the monitoring and evaluation of curriculum.
2. -
3. The Department provided a list of names of potential members of the Review Panel to the Minister for consideration. The appointment process followed the requirements of the Cabinet Handbook.
4. As this is in the nature of advice to Government, the department is unable to disclose other names included on the list.
5. Candidates for reviews are not routinely asked about their personal political affiliations nor would these affiliations be part of criteria used by the Department.
6. Dr Donnelly and Professor Wiltshire have combined national and international experience in curriculum theory, design, benchmarking and review. Professor Wiltshire has undertaken the review of the Queensland Curriculum and Dr Donnelly has undertaken previous curriculum benchmarking studies of state and international curricula.