

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2009-10**

Outcome 2

DEEWR Question No. EW0134_10

Senator Mason provided in writing.

Question

Music education to improve literacy and numeracy

What plans does this Government have to utilise the ability of school music to improve literacy and numeracy?

Answer

The Government has committed to the development of a rigorous, world-class national curriculum for all Australian students from kindergarten to Year 12, initially in English, mathematics, science and history. National curriculum will subsequently be developed in geography, languages and the arts.

The development of national curriculum will include a strong focus on literacy and numeracy skills across all learning areas (including music and the arts). The Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority, which has been established under its own legislation, is responsible for the development of national curriculum. It will build on the work of the interim National Curriculum Board.

As noted in *The Shape of the Australian Curriculum*, a paper released by the interim Board on 6 May 2009:

The foundation for literacy will be built primarily in English and the foundation for numeracy primarily in mathematics, but both literacy and numeracy must be reinforced and strengthened through teaching of other learning areas.