

**PART RESPONSE: INQUIRY INTO THE EDUCATION OF STUDENTS WITH A
DISABILITY OR SPECIAL NEEDS IN GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT
SCHOOLS
IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTION

Question about including Auslan in the State curriculum in the same way as French or Japanese.

ANSWER

In NSW, all students undertake 100 hours of mandatory Language study. Schools determine, often in consultation with their community, the language/s that will be offered. The decision is also influenced by the interest of students and the resources available, including the expertise of teaching staff.

When determining the development of a new syllabus or course the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) considers whether there is sufficient ongoing demand for the course and whether there are enough qualified teachers available. Currently, schools in NSW are able to deliver Auslan through a school developed Board Endorsed Course (SDBEC) in Years 7–10 and Years 11–12. SDBEC courses are designed to be taught within the same number of hours as Board developed courses. Specifically, 100 hours in Stage 4, 100 or 200 hours in Stage 5 and 120 or 240 hours in Stage 6. A SDBEC does not contribute to an ATAR, but the course is recognised on a student's Higher School Certificate testamur.

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) has developed an Australian curriculum for Auslan. NSW is currently continuing a review of the provision of Kindergarten to Year 10 Languages, including options for introducing new Language courses for study in NSW schools. This review involves consideration of Australian curriculum developed languages courses, including Auslan, that are not currently offered through NSW syllabuses.

**PART RESPONSE: INQUIRY INTO THE EDUCATION OF STUDENTS WITH A
DISABILITY OR SPECIAL NEEDS IN GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT
SCHOOLS
IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – READING RECOVERY

QUESTION

Mr MARTIN: Also, the pupil to teacher ratio of Reading Recovery is one-on-one. It was grabbed by teachers as a clear methodology, a guideline, on how to do it and the one-on-one had a positive effect on student performance in many ways simply because it was one-on-one. Significant reports have now come in. There was a report in New South Wales, a Rose report in the United Kingdom, and one in America for a national reading survey. They all questioned particular methodologies of teaching reading. When it was registered and a part of all three systems and schools, we understand that that program was in use. What do we do about it now that there are questions marks in relation to its efficacy? It would be my view that we would have to review some of the programs on our website when they come up for reregistration or earlier to determine whether they can still be supported. I state that there is a debate that has not been settled in the minds of many in relation to the bestway of doing things, notwithstanding the submissions that have come here.

The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: When are they up for reregistration?

Mr MARTIN: I think it is every three years for the providers.

The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: If you would like to take that on notice, it would be helpful.

ANSWER

Reading Recovery Is not an endorsed NESAs provider. Reading Recovery courses are delivered by NESAs Endorsed Providers in NSW Department of Education, Catholic and Independent schools.

**PART RESPONSE: INQUIRY INTO THE EDUCATION OF STUDENTS WITH A
DISABILITY OR SPECIAL NEEDS IN GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT
SCHOOLS
IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – READING RECOVERY

QUESTION

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: If there was a recommendation from this Committee that that audit be done—I use the word "audit" and there is better language—would you have any observations about whether you have adequate resources, whether you should do it or whether some external body should do it? I do not mean to put you on the spot now. You can take that question on notice.

Mr MARTIN: I think I would need to take it on notice, particularly given it is right in the middle of a contested space.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: I accept that. It would be appreciated if you take it on notice and give us your considered views on it.

ANSWER

NESA will conduct risk based and random audits of NESA Endorsed Providers of Professional Development from 2018.