

**Division 37: School Curriculum and Standards Authority, \$28 843 000 —**

Mr M.W. Sutherland, Chairman.

Dr E. Constable, Minister for Education.

Mr A. Blagaich, Acting Chief Executive Officer.

Mr S. Donatti, Director, Moderation and Standards.

Mrs R. Smith, Director, Curriculum and Assessment.

Ms Y. H. Seetoh, Chief Finance Officer.

Ms J. Taggart, Principal Policy Adviser, Office of the Minister for Education.

Mr J. Lee, Chief of Staff, Office of the Minister for Education.

[Witnesses introduced.]

**The CHAIRMAN:** The member for Warnbro.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** I refer to the line item for the grants for the implementation of the national curriculum in the details of controlled grants and subsidies table on page 424. Can the minister explain what those grants are for, to whom they went and to whom they will go in the forthcoming budget year?

**Dr E. CONSTABLE:** I most certainly can. It is worth noting that we are the only government in Australia that has provided any sort of support for the implementation of the national curriculum. We are the only government to put money into schools and sectors for this purpose. An amount of \$5 million was allocated in the 2010–11 financial year, \$5 million was allocated in the 2011–12 financial year and \$2.5 million has been allocated in this budget for the implementation and familiarisation of the Australian Curriculum. I made sure that we learnt from past mistakes in the implementation of the curriculum. I insisted that we proceed with caution. We did not endorse the commencement of implementation until all schools were able to view all the materials and everything was in place—the curriculum outlines, supporting materials, achievement standards, annotated student work samples and resources. The money has been spent to this point on giving schools, sectors and teachers the opportunity to become familiar with everything to do with this before it is implemented. The first \$10 million has been spent on that to this point. In addition, different sectors and individual schools have done additional work in the area of familiarisation and preparing for implementation. For instance, in the public school system, there was an extra teacher development day in April whereby networks and groups of teachers were able to work together. It was very successful. The defining characteristic of this implementation is that it is not a top-down imposition on schools; it is schools and teachers in the public sector working extremely carefully together to be prepared for implementation. Given that in December last year everything was in place—the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority was running extremely late with that—the decision was made that we would begin implementation in July this year. That is when the implementation will start. I can give the member some examples of how that money has been spent by the Department of Education.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** Is it possible for the minister to provide the grants as supplementary information. It would be good if she could do it for the forthcoming year, but can she do it for last year?

**Dr E. CONSTABLE:** That is information on how that \$10 million has been spent.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** Where it all went and where it is going, because we are running out of time. I would like to pass the division.

**Dr E. CONSTABLE:** I would be more than happy to do that. We will provide information about how the \$10 million in each of those two years has been spent.

[*Supplementary Information No B46.*]

**The appropriation was recommended.**

*Meeting suspended from 1.00 to 2.00 pm*