

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000676

Senator O'Neill, Deborah asked on 01 June 2017, Proof Hansard page 109

Use of NCCD in funding model

Question

But what I want to know from the magic folder that you have got there—or maybe take it on notice—is the moment it went from still being a mess at last estimates to all of a sudden being a vital instrument that was able to inform national policy. That transformation has happened in a very short period of time. Was it just to hide it, or to keep it a secret? Why were we not apprised of that, and what is the sector's engagement? On notice if you can.

Answer

The 2011 *Review of Funding for Schooling* (also known as the Gonksi review) recommended that, as a matter of priority, work be progressed on collecting nationally consistent data on students with disability and the level of educational adjustment in order to inform a loading (see recommendations 14 and 26).

The Australian Government has noted the use of the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD) for funding purposes numerous times, including, but not limited to:

- The Hon Christopher Pyne MP, 17 June 2015, Parliament Federation chamber during consideration of the Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2015-16, p. 6731.
- Australian Government, May 2016, *Quality Schools, Quality Outcomes*, p. 12.
- 2016-17 Budget provided an additional \$118.2 million to support students with disability in the 2016 and 2017 calendar years informed by the NCCD.

The Australian Government has been working with states and territories and the non-government sector through the Education Council's Joint Working Group to Provide Advice on Reform for Students with Disability to continue to improve the quality, consistency and reliability of the collection.

On 16 December 2016 Education Council agreed in-principle that the NCCD should be one of a range of factors used to inform policy and funding decisions for students with disability.