

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

Department of Education Question No. ED0588_15

Senator Wright provided in writing.

Question

2014 Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on Students with a Disability (NCCD)

When did the department receive the full results of the 2014 Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on Students with a Disability (NCCD)? What does the 2014 NCCD show are the proportion of students with disability in schools? What is the proportion in public schools and in non-government schools? What is the proportion in public and private schools in each state and territory? How does the national proportion of students with disability in the 2014 NCCD compare with the proportion found in earlier NCCD collections (including trials)? Why is the NCCD judged to be not of a sufficient quality to use in determining a funding loading? What are the flaws in the collection and what is being done to fix them? How much has been spent by the Commonwealth to assist in paying for the professional development of teachers and principals to allow them to accurately assess SWD as part of the NCCD? What is the budget commitment for this in 2015 given the flaws identified in the collection so far? When will the 2015 NCCD take place?

Answer

It is not possible to provide an analysis of the data collected through the 2014 Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on Students with Disability (NCCD) at this time. Schools and education authorities submitted data to the department for the 2014 NCCD by close of business Friday 31 October 2014. The department is currently compiling and analysing the data and expects to report results to the Education Council in early 2015.

The NCCD is a new approach to collecting and reporting information about students with disability in Australian schools, as mutually agreed by states, territories and the Australian Government. While significant progress has been made in implementing the NCCD in schools, as with any comparable collection, it will take time for the data set to mature and be of sufficient quality to inform funding for students with disability. Once fully embedded in schools, it is expected that the NCCD will provide a robust source of data upon which to inform funding for students with disability.

Continuous improvement of the NCCD is a key priority of all education authorities and stakeholders and a National Quality Assurance Framework will drive improvements in data quality and reliability in all jurisdictions for the 2015 NCCD.

Initially, \$700,000 (GST exclusive) over 2013–14 to 2015–16 was sourced from contributions by all states and territories and the Australian Government for the NCCD website, national support and materials to assist school staff to implement the NCCD. In addition, under the Government's More Support for Students with Disabilities initiative, the majority of education authorities have chosen to direct a significant proportion of their 2014 funding allocation to support their schools with implementation of the NCCD. Nationally, approximately \$22.5 million has been allocated for professional learning and support for principals, teachers and other school staff for this purpose.

Activities undertaken include professional development focussing on developing awareness, understanding and application of the data collection model, understanding the requirements of the Disability Standards for Education 2005, developing individualised learning plans and communication strategies to disseminate information to parents and care givers.

The timelines for the 2015 NCCD are indicative at this stage; they will be agreed with stakeholders in the coming months. It is expected that the collection will take place from August–October 2015.