

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000076

Senator O'Neill, Deborah asked on 05 March 2015, Hansard page 27

Funding for Students with Disability

Question

Senator O'NEILL: What proportion and number of students are currently receiving additional funding for disability under the Australian Education Act?

Mr Cook: That is in ROGS.

Senator O'NEILL: Sorry?

Mr Cook: Report on government services. This is taken from the Report on government services 2014. The latest data you will have will be 2012 data. In terms of total students with disability, it is 5.1 per cent across all schools of Australia.

Senator O'NEILL: And how many attended special schools?

Mr Cook: I am sorry. I do not have that information.

Senator O'NEILL: If you could find that out, and also how many attend mainstream schools?

Ms Paul: We probably do have that.

Mr Cook: Actually, census data will probably be able to tell us that.

Senator O'NEILL: Do we have a raw number?

Ms Paul: We will have. You mean numbers of kids in those categories? Sure. I think we probably would by enrolments.

Senator O'NEILL: By state and by school sector.

Mr Cook: Yes. This is public information. This is in the RoGS: 183,000 out of 3.5 million for Australia. Then I can break that down by state and territory and by government and non-government.

Senator O'NEILL: And give that to us on notice?

Mr Cook: That is correct.

Senator O'NEILL: That would be very helpful. Thank you very much. I have a couple of questions about the process and the findings of the NCCD.

Mr Cook: I am sorry. That was 2012 data. I have 2013 data as well. I just realised I have another page. We will give you that on notice, if you like, but if you look at—

Senator O'NEILL: If you can give me the 2013 and 2014 proportion of students with disability in schools.

Mr Cook: Only 2013; that is the latest data set that we would have.

Senator O'NEILL: When will you get the 2014 data set?

Answer

Number of funded students with disability in 2013

The 2015 Report on Government Services shows that in 2013 there were 190,887 students in Australian schools in receipt of state/territory targeted funding as a student with disability. This is 5.3 per cent of all Australian school students.

TABLE 4A.31

Table 4A.31 **Funded students with disability, 2013 (a), (b)**

	<i>Unit</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
Total students with disability (c)										
Government schools	no.	48 595	35 041	28 204	10 927	14 760	4 400	1 876	1 288	145 091
Non-government schools	no.	17 491	11 801	7 468	3 357	3 588	860	695	537	45 797
All schools	no.	66 086	46 842	35 672	14 284	18 348	5 260	2 570	1 825	190 887
Total students (d)										
Government schools	no.	753 994	553 442	506 944	253 383	166 544	55 757	36 281	29 370	2 355 715
Non-government schools	no.	398 557	327 708	254 467	131 712	94 604	23 875	26 928	11 039	1 268 890
All schools	no.	1 152 551	881 150	761 411	385 095	261 148	79 632	63 209	40 409	3 624 605
Students with disability as a proportion of all students										
Government schools	%	6.4	6.3	5.6	4.3	8.9	7.9	5.2	4.4	6.2
Non-government schools	%	4.4	3.6	2.9	2.5	3.8	3.6	2.6	4.9	3.6
All schools	%	5.7	5.3	4.7	3.7	7.0	6.6	4.1	4.5	5.3

(a) To be an eligible student with disability, the student (among other things) must satisfy the criteria for enrolment in special education services or special education programs provided by the government of the state or territory in which the student resides. Data should be used with caution as these criteria vary across jurisdictions, for example, SA data include a large number of students in the communication and language impairment category. This subset of students is not counted by other States/Territories under funded students with disability. Other States/Territories fund these students with other specific programs.

(b) Excludes Full Fee Paying Overseas students from both the government and non-government sectors as well students on Christmas and Cocos Islands.

(c) Total students with disability is the number of full time equivalent students.

(d) The ABS total student data refer to full time students.

Source: ABS 2014, *Schools Australia 2013*, Cat. no. 4221.0, Canberra; Department of Education (unpublished).

The equivalent data for 2014 will become available in early 2016.

Number of students attending special schools

The 2014 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) *Schools Australia* catalogue 4221.0 provides the number of students that attended special and special assistance schools in 2013:

Special schools:

Number of full time equivalent students and schools

Sector	FTE	Schools
Government	20,969	330
Non-government	7557	105
All	28,526	435

Data Sources: Australian Government Department of Education and Training (2014 Unpublished)

ABS: Schools Australia; Catalogue 4221.0 (2014 Published)

Definition:

Special school - A special school is one which satisfies the definition of a school and requires one or more of the following characteristics to be exhibited by the student before enrolment is allowed:

1. mental or physical disability or impairment;
2. slow learning ability;
3. social or emotional problems; and/or
4. in custody, on remand, in hospital.

These data include those schools that are both categorised as special and those that have special assistance programs.

Number of students with disability attending mainstream schools

This information is not available and cannot be calculated by subtracting the 28,526 in special schools from the total as these are different collections with different definitions.