

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-2014

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

Department of Education Question No. ED0022_14
Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question

National Education Reform Agenda (NERA) – loading for students with disability

The NERA commits state and Commonwealth governments to applying a loading for students with disability from 2015. What steps is the department taking to finalise arrangements for this loading? What are the key steps that will be undertaken before implementation and on what date is each step expected to be completed? Will the loading start to flow to schools at the beginning of the 2015 school year?

Answer

The Australian Government Department of Education is working with states and territories and non-government education authorities through the Strategic Policy Working Group to develop the new funding loading formula.

The Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD) is being progressively phased in over 2013-2015 and will form a key piece of evidence for the funding loading formula. Work is also underway to identify the additional resources being provided to support the three levels of adjustment (supplementary, substantial and extensive) as per the NCCD.

These two streams of information will inform the new funding loading formula for students with disability from 2015.

The project to collect data on the additional resources will be undertaken in government, Catholic and independent schools over the period from mid December 2013 to September 2014:

- December to February 2013 – development of the data collection methodology; development, refinement and testing of the data collection tool; development of user guides; establishment of relationships with schools and orientation
- March 2014 - piloting of the survey instrument in eight schools nationally to collect the data on the costs of adjustment;
- April 2014 - data to be collected about the costs of adjustments for students with disability from a target sample of at least 120 schools (6500 target students) nationally
- June 2014 - due date for final report for the project
- September 2014 - consideration of findings by the Strategic Policy Working Group.