

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000083

Senator O'Neill, Deborah asked on 05 March 2015, Hansard page 28

Draft classifications of need

Question

Senator O'NEILL: That is great. So what are the draft levels of classification?

Ms Efthymiades: There are four categories, starting from the highest level, which is labelled 'extensive'. The second one down is 'substantial'. The third one is 'supplementary'. The fourth one is, as Mr Cook mentioned earlier, 'no adjustment required at this time'. So all of those categories cover the scope under the breadth of the Disability Discrimination Act, but, as Mr Cook gave evidence earlier, all the systems and schools are very focused on the fact that there are not additional resourcing other than quality differentiated teaching happening for that bottom category there. The levels of resourcing, though, for those other three, are part of what is being modelled through with the collection processes at the moment.

Senator O'NEILL: Thank you. That is very clear. I understand exactly what you are saying.

How many students fall into each of the categories, based on your information to date?

Mr Cook: We would have to take that on notice. Part of that is also in confidence in the sense that states and territories have indicated to us that, because that information is still not complete, they have a strong preference that that information is not made public, but we are happy to take that on notice.

Answer

A 2012 Trial of the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on Students with Disability (NCCD) was undertaken in a sample of approximately 228 schools nationally.

Data collected through this trial estimated a student population nationally across the four levels of adjustment in the NCCD as:

- Extensive adjustments: 0.4 per cent
- Substantial adjustments: 1.4 per cent
- Supplementary adjustments: 3.8 per cent
- No adjustment at this time: 0.4 per cent

A copy of this report, as well as the 2011 trial report, is available at:

www.education.gov.au/background-information-nationally-consistent-collection-data-school-students-disability.

Note: The 2012 Trial is based on a very small sample of schools and is not representative of the population of students with disability or the number of students in each category of adjustment.

2015 is the first year the NCCD will take place in all Australian schools.