

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016**

Outcome: Agency: ACARA

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000102

Senator Lines, Sue provided in writing

ACARA: students with disability (my schools website)

Question

In relation to the publication of information about the inclusion of students with disability:
a. Referring to reports about the publication of disability inclusion data on the My School website:

- i. What exactly will be published?
 - ii. Will it be an index? What will be taken into account?
 - iii. How is ACARA collecting this data?
 - iv. Is data collection on-track?
 - v. What experts has ACARA worked with in developing this approach to measuring and reporting inclusion?
 - vi. How will inclusion in classroom activities and teaching be measured?
 - vii. In how much detail will data be reported? Will levels of required adjustment be reported?
- b. Is ACARA working toward publishing data on the My School website in 2016 in relation to students with disability at each school?
- c. How is that progressing? When do you expect to get that data? What exactly will be published? No of students? Level of funding associated with students with disability?
- d. Will funded levels of adjustment in each school be reported? And will this be in line with the categories in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability?
- e. Is there a decision on when the My School site will be updated in 2016? Around February as in previous years?
- f. Did Education Ministers agree on a plan for the publication of this data? Have they agreed on any other changes to the parameters published on the My School website? What are those changes and when will they take effect?

Answer

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) has provided the following response.

- a. Referring to reports about the publication of disability inclusion data on the *My School* website:
- i. No content or format options have been developed by ACARA or approved by Education Council for the publication of students with disability (SWD) data on the *My School* website.
 - ii. No content or format options have been developed by ACARA or approved by Education Council for the publication of SWD data on the *My School* website.
 - iii. The Australian Government Department of Education and Training has been responsible for managing collection of data on SWD. ACARA has not collected and does not hold these data.
 - iv. See above answer
 - v. See above answers

- vi. No content or format options have been developed by ACARA or approved by Education Council for the publication of SWD data on the *My School* website.
- vii. No content or format options have been developed by ACARA or approved by Education Council for the publication of SWD data on the *My School* website.
- b. Any decision on the publication of data will be a decision of the Education Council.
- c. The Education Council established a Joint Working Group to Provide Advice on Reform for Students with Disability (JWG). The JWG is chaired by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training, includes representation from all state and territory government education authorities, the Independent Schools Council of Australia (ISCA), the National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC), and ACARA.

The JWG has been working to achieve nationally-consistent definitions and collection of data on SWD with the intent that, once a satisfactory level of consistency was achieved, publication at a school level could be considered.

Up to now the Australian Government Department of Education and Training has been responsible for managing collection of data on students with disability. ACARA has not collected and does not hold these data.

At the 28 October and 15 December 2015 Joint Working Group meetings, it was agreed that ACARA should explore options for presenting SWD data on *My School* and prepare a budget proposal to enable ACARA to undertake the scoping work.

ACARA has received no formal direction; however, progressing this work is consistent with previous Education Council decisions.

ACARA submitted a proposal to the JWG on 17 February 2016 with a timeline and resource request for ACARA to investigate how the SWD data could be presented on the *My School* website and to consult with stakeholders and interested parties.

JWG members at the 17 February 2016 meeting accepted ACARA's proposal.

No content or format options have been developed by ACARA or approved by Education Council for the publication of SWD data on the *My School* website at this very early stage in the process.

- d. No content or format options have been developed by ACARA or approved by Education Council for the publication of SWD data on the *My School* website at this very early stage in the process.

- e. The *My School* website is scheduled for update on 9 March 2016.

- f. ACARA has received no formal direction, however, progressing this work is consistent with previous Education Council decisions.

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As agreed by Education Council in September 2016, changes will include a new *My School* website landing page with concise and accessible information and a review of standard text on all pages to ensure that it is readily understandable by a range of audiences. Ministers also agreed to the addition of a new measure of student attendance (the proportion of students attending 90 per cent or more of the time), which was added to the *My School* website in December 2015

In relation to publication of data on *My School*, please refer to Question No. SQ16-000022.

In relation to *My School* website students with disability data, please refer to Question No. SQ16-000021.

For consultation in relation to students with disabilities and the Australian Curriculum, please refer to Question No. SQ16-000025.