

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000121

Senator Lines, Sue provided in writing

Also refer to previous hearing Question No. SQ15-000076 and SQ15-000236

Students with disability

Question

How many students with disability attend schools in each state and sector? How many are funded at each of the adjustment levels used in the NCCD process?

Answer

The 2016 Report on Government Services shows that in 2014 there were 194,329 students with disability in Australian schools in receipt of Australian Government funding. This is 5.3 per cent of all Australian school students. Funded students with disability by state and sector are shown in the following table:

Table 4A.31 Funded students with disability, 2014 (a), (b)

	Unit	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Total students with disability (c)										
Government schools	no.	48 592	31 456	30 123	11 343	14 848	4 918	1 970	1 440	144 690
Non-government schools	no.	19 073	12 403	8 328	3 393	3 911	990	773	769	49 639
All schools	no.	67 665	43 859	38 451	14 736	18 759	5 907	2 743	2 209	194 329
Total students (d)										
Government schools	no.	762 244	563 549	515 501	258 627	165 144	55 864	37 205	29 395	2 387 529
Non-government schools	no.	404 497	333 486	257 808	133 183	94 739	24 034	27 237	11 252	1 286 236
All schools	no.	1 166 741	897 035	773 309	391 810	259 883	79 898	64 442	40 647	3 673 765
Students with disability as a proportion of all students										
Government schools	%	6.4	5.6	5.8	4.4	9.0	8.8	5.3	4.9	6.1
Non-government schools	%	4.7	3.7	3.2	2.5	4.1	4.1	2.8	6.8	3.9
All schools	%	5.8	4.9	5.0	3.8	7.2	7.4	4.3	5.4	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 2015, *Schools Australia 2014*, Cat. no. 4221.0, Canberra; Australian Government Department of Education and Training (unpublished).

As agreed by all Education Ministers, students with disability are not currently funded using the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) on School Students with Disability until such a time as Ministers are satisfied that the collection is robust and validated.

The Government introduced a funding loading for students with disability in 2014 under the *Australian Education Act 2013*. The loading applies to eligible students with disability as determined by the state or territory in which they live.

The Government is providing more than \$5 billion over the period 2014–17 through the funding loading for students with disability. This includes a guaranteed amount of \$100 million more for students with disability in 2016 compared to 2015, and a further increase of over \$100 million for students with disability in 2017.