

**Senate Committee: Education and Employment**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017**

**Outcome: Schools and Youth**

**Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000079**

Senator O'Neill, Deborah asked on 01 March 2017, Proof Hansard page 120.

***Students with disability loadings***

**Question**

Senator O'NEILL: That is not an SWD loading, which is what you committed to delivering in 2015. Are you actually going to introduce a revised loading at all or have you given up on that?

Senator Birmingham: I discussed issues of SWD loadings with the states and territories at the Education Council. They agreed on some further work and directions in that space, and we can go to the communique or the resolution there to identify what the agreement was. There was certainly strong opinion across the states, territories and within much of the non-government sector about elements of the inadequacy of some of the data that is available for such loading reforms at a comprehensive level at present.

Senator O'NEILL: I have some questions for the department on that. Minister, could you take on notice to give us each step that you will take to develop a revised loading, who you are going to consult with on the development of that revised loading and when you will be consulting with them?

Senator Birmingham: We will take that on notice.

**Answer**

In December 2016, Education Council agreed in principle that the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability should be one of a range of factors to inform policy and funding decisions for students with disability and to continue to work collaboratively to improve data quality and consistency.

The Australian Government will release its position on school funding in due course.