

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

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

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000446

Senator O'Neill, Deborah asked on 04 June 2015, Proof Hansard page 147

Ceased disability support programmes – More Support for Students with Disabilities initiative

Question

Senator O'NEILL: Is the department aware of any systems, activities or projects that were established under the program that will now be discontinued?

Mr Cook: I am not aware of that. The department always knew it was a limited term program—in fact, they thought it was two years—

Senator O'NEILL: If you can provide a list state-by-state and electorate of programs that have ceased. Mr Cook: Programs that have ceased? We are happy to take it on notice and see what we can provide.

Senator O'NEILL: Any system, activities or projects that were established under the program that are now not continuing?

Mr Cook: The fact that the program is now completed—

Senator O'NEILL: Everything in this program.

Mr Cook: I do not whether the states and territories have decided to continue funding themselves, which a number of states and territories may do. For us to get that information, we would have to write to every state and territory.

CHAIR: You have taken it on notice.

Mr Cook: I am happy to take it on notice.

Answer

The short-term More Support for Students with Disability (MSSD) initiative was implemented during 2012–2014 and has enabled education authorities to develop, trial and implement capacity building of teachers and other school staff to better support students with disability into the future.

The capacity building nature of MSSD has meant that a large number of strategies are available online and/or now embedded in practice and will have an enduring impact into the future, are therefore sustainable and do not require additional funding (either state or Commonwealth) in order to continue.

All government education authorities and seven non-government education authorities are continuing to fund some of their MSSD activities.

Further detailed information on specific activities continuing as a result of MSSD in each state, territory and non-government jurisdiction will be provided in detail in the independent final evaluation report which will be publicly available on the Department of Education and Training website later this year.