

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

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

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000448

Senator O'Neill, Deborah asked on 04 June 2015, Proof Hansard page 148

Future funding for Students with Disability

Question

Senator O'NEILL: Will the new loading for students with disability be introduced from next year?

Mr Cook: That is a matter for government, but the minister has been quite clear that this NCCD will inform the work that we are considering about that. It is a matter for government, not for me.

Senator Ryan: I think it is in the statement. If there is anything to add, I will add it. The data collection will inform from 2016 onwards. If there is anything more to add, I will take it on notice on behalf of the minister.

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Senator O'NEILL: Yes—can they be assured that the loading for students with disability will be available next year?

Senator Ryan: The government is spending more money on students with disability than ever before. The words you read out, and I do not have the press release in front of me, make it clear in black and white. If there is anything else the minister wishes to add, I will take it on notice.

Answer

The Australian Government is continuing to fund the loading for students with disability (SWD) – \$1.2 billion for eligible SWD in 2015 and more than \$5 billion over the period 2014-2017.

The Government funds SWD in accordance with the *Australian Education Act 2013* (the Act). All schools with eligible SWD will receive an SWD loading amount. Commonwealth funding for SWD will be informed by the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on Students with Disability from 2016.