

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000455

Senator O'Neill, Deborah asked on 04 June 2015, Proof Hansard page 152

Funding for Students with Disability

Question

Senator O'NEILL: Could you provide a per capita level of funding for students with disability in each state?

Mr Cook: I think we might have done that already, through the rest of the questions on notice, but I am happy to do that again.

Senator O'NEILL: Territory and sector and electorate over the forward estimates.

Mr Cook: We will certainly take it on notice and see what we can provide.

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Senator O'NEILL: How much more than indexation?

Mr Cook: I would have to take on notice what proportion of the \$100 million is indexation or additionality or enrolment growth.

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Senator O'NEILL: What is the level of unmet need for students with disability in terms of cost? Senator Ryan: We are waiting on the data for lots of assessments.

Senator O'NEILL: Any information you can provide on notice will be helpful. What provision has been made for additional funding, given the states and Commonwealth are currently funding about 190,000 students, and the ABS stats show close to 300,000 young people with disability? This is something that is referenced on page 1 of the department's Disability Standards for Education review?

Answer

The Australian Government calculates a loading for students with disability in accordance with the *Australian Education Act 2013*. This funding is not provided directly to students but rather to state and territory governments and non-government schools and systems. The Australian Government contribution represents approximately one third of the public funding provided for students with disability with the remaining two thirds being provided by State and Territory governments. The Government is not prescriptive about how schools or systems spend these funds to meet the ongoing costs of providing school education.

Additionality is not calculated with respect to individual loadings. Therefore data relating to components of additional funding for students with disability are not available.

Australian Government funding for students with disability is currently provided based on students reported in accordance with state and territory eligibility criteria. Any potential impact on funding from the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD) cannot be known until after the first full data collection is completed.