

**Senate Committee: Education and Employment**

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

**Outcome: Schools and Youth**

**Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000507**

Senator O'Neill, Deborah provided in writing

***Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability informing Students with Disability loading***

**Question**

1. Will the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on Students with Disability 2015 affect the SWD loading from 2016? Will the formula change? Will the eligibility criteria change?

Referring to the glossary entry 'student with disability' in the Guide to the Australian Education Act: The data collected may in future, be used to help calculate the student with disability loading, subject to the agreement of education ministers.'

In an answer to a question without notice in the Senate on 24 March 2015, Senator Birmingham advised that 'the refined loading is on track to be introduced in 2016.'

In answer to ED0148\_14, supplementary budget hearings 2013–14, the student with disability loading for 2014 is described as an 'interim' loading.

2. Is the 2015 loading also interim?

**Answer**

At the 31 October 2014 Education Council meeting, education ministers agreed that existing data based on state and territory eligibility criteria for the distribution of funding for students with disability will continue in 2015 until there is confidence that the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD) is of the necessary quality to accurately inform funding for students with disability, with the aim of utilising NCCD data from 2016.

The Hon Christopher Pyne MP, Minister for Education and Training, has committed that the NCCD will inform Commonwealth funding for students with disability from 2016.

The 2015 loading is calculated in accordance with the *Australian Education Act 2013*, in the same way as the 2014 loading.