

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

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

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000508

Senator O'Neill, Deborah provided in writing

Students with Disability funding loading

Question

Referring to an article in The Australian on 5 February 2015, "The elite get cash for needy kids", which implies that because of the transition arrangements not all schools will get their full students with disability loading.

- a. Does the Department have a comment on this?
- b. The article quotes a submission from the Department to a Senate inquiry last year "that the allocated amount depended on the proportion of the resource standard the school received."

Can the Department please provide a copy of the Submission referred to in this article.

Answer

The Australian Government funds students with disability (SWD) in accordance with the *Australian Education Act 2013* (the Act). All schools which report SWD receive an SWD loading amount.

Under the Act, transitional funding arrangements are in place for some schools based on their historic funding levels. The department presents a school's funding as base and loading amounts in proportions equal to those in each school's Schooling Resource Standard amounts.

As a result, schools in transition appear to receive either more (if they are above the SRS) or less (if they are below the SRS) than the legislated SWD loading amount.

A copy of the relevant submission is attached.