

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000679

Senator Collins, Jacinta asked on 01 June 2017, Proof Hansard page 111

Students with disability loading

Question

Mr Cook: That is right, sorry: the total national data. It is \$1.5 billion in 2017 and \$1.6 billion in 2018.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: What is the difference between the two? Is that simply indexation, or is there additional funding going into it?

...

Mr Cook: The percentages that have been identified—the 312 per cent extensive for primary, the 146 per cent substantial and the 42 per cent—also drive additional funding.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: How much additional funding is attracted by that factor?

Answer

The disability loading that will apply from 2018 is different to the current loading. Because of this, it is not possible to disaggregate how much of the increase is attributable to indexation of the Schooling Resource Standard, the differentiated loadings or increase in students.

Australian Government funding for students with disability will grow from \$1.5 billion in 2017 to \$1.6 billion in 2018, and up to \$2.7 billion in 2027. Over ten years, total Commonwealth funding through the disability loading will be over \$21.2 billion, and will grow by an average of 5.9 per cent each year, which is above the level of indexation.

The new loadings are a percentage of the base amount per student, which has increased to \$10,953 for primary students and \$13,764 for secondary students.

Instead of providing a flat 186 per cent loading for all students with disability in mainstream schools and 223 per cent in special schools, the differentiated loading provides for three levels of adjustment:

	Base per student amount in 2018	Supplementary	Substantial	Extensive
Primary student	\$10,953	42% (\$4,600)	146% (\$15,991)	312% (\$34,173)
Secondary student	\$13,764	33% (\$4,542)	116% (\$15,966)	248% (\$34,135)

Under the current arrangements, secondary students attract more disability funding than primary school students, because they attract 186 or 223 per cent of a larger base per student amount. The new arrangements take account of this in the percentages to ensure an equitable amount of funding is provided across all ages.