

## **Senate Committee: Education and Employment**

### **QUESTION ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018**

#### **Outcome: Schools and Youth**

#### **Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000805**

Senator Collins, Jacinta provided in writing

#### ***NCCD - data quality***

##### **Question**

What has the Joint Working Group said about the accuracy of the SWD data and whether it is reliable enough to link to funding?

What have Education Ministers said about the accuracy of the SWD data and whether it is reliable enough to link to funding?

What additional quality assurance or moderation will the Government be taking to ensure the SWD NCCD is accurate, now it is being linked to funding?

##### **Answer**

At its 7 April 2017 meeting Education Council noted the Joint Working Group's advice on the quality of data collected through the 2016 Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD), informed by the *2016 Continuous Quality Improvement Project* conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers. Regarding the robustness of the 2016 data, the report found:

- The data is of sufficient quality to inform policy at the national level.
- Data is suitable to be considered as one component among others when developing policy at the jurisdictional and sector level.

On 16 December 2016 Education Council "agreed in principle that the NCCD should be one of a range of factors to inform policy and funding decisions for students with disability and to continue to work collaboratively to improve data quality and consistency." Education ministers have also agreed in principle to several strategies at the national, jurisdictional and school levels. National level strategies coordinated by the Joint Working Group include:

- convening a national NCCD Quality Improvement and Assurance Forum (5–6 April 2017) for staff from education authorities involved with advising schools on the NCCD
- developing resources to assist schools in undertaking within-school moderation
- developing templates/guidelines to assist schools with the evidentiary requirements of the NCCD.

Ministers agreed that strategies for implementation at the jurisdictional and school levels are the responsibility of jurisdictions.

The Australian Government has allocated an additional \$20 million over four years to strengthen and moderate the NCCD across sectors. Further consultation will be undertaken with education authorities on approaches to enhance the quality of the collection.