

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000813

Senator Collins, Jacinta provided in writing

Students with Disabilities loading – accountability

Question

What accountability mechanisms will the Government put in place to ensure the SWD loading funding is utilised to benefit students with disability?

Answer

The Australian Government is consulting on a range of matters related to the funding loading for students with disability, including consideration of appropriate accountability mechanisms.

Under the *Australian Education Act 2013*, if an approved authority is found to have overstated the numbers of students with disability or students' levels of adjustment, the Government can reduce, withhold or delay funding to the approved authority.

The amended Act also establishes the National School Resourcing Board, which has the ability to assess compliance of approved authorities with requirements under the Act.

More broadly, the Disability Standards for Education 2005 require all education providers to make reasonable adjustments to assist students with disability to participate in education on the same basis as other students.

Further, to support quality teaching the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership has developed the *Australian Professional Standards for Teachers*. The Teacher Standards require teachers to be able to support full participation of students with disability and to differentiate teaching to meet the learning needs of students across the full range of abilities. This helps to ensure that all teachers are well prepared to support inclusive student participation and engagement with education.