

# Information notice

## Background

All Education Ministers from Commonwealth, state and territory governments endorsed the implementation of a Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD) in all Australian schools (government, independent and Catholic).

The nationally consistent approach to data collection provides all Australian schools, education authorities and the community with a clear picture of the number of students receiving adjustments because of disability in schools, and the adjustments they are provided to enable them to participate in education on the same basis as other students.

## Authority for the national data collection

The Australian Education Regulation 2013 requires the operators of all government and non-government schools that receive Australian Government funding (approved authorities) to provide information to the Australian Government Department of Education and Training (the Department) for the purposes of the national data collection.

The [Australian Education Regulation 2013](http://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2016C00958) ([www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2016C00958](http://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2016C00958)) is on the Federal Register of Legislation website.

The information that approved authorities must give to the Department is set out at section 58A of the Australian Education Regulation. This includes, in relation to each student with a disability at a school operated by the approved authority:

- the student's year of schooling
- the student's category of disability (physical, cognitive, sensory or social/emotional)
- the student's level of adjustment (support provided within quality differentiated teaching practice, supplementary, substantial or extensive adjustment).

Other details about the information to be collected, and the format in which the information is to be provided to the Department, are contained in guidelines approved by the Education Council (the committee of the Council of Australian Governments comprising the Commonwealth and state and territory Ministers responsible for education). [Guidelines for the national data collection](http://www.education.gov.au/node/50091) (www.education.gov.au/node/50091) are available on the Department's website.

The information **will not explicitly identify individual students** (subsection 58A(3) of the Regulation); no information that could reasonably enable the Department to identify individual students will be provided by approved authorities to the Department<sup>1</sup>.

### **Collection, use and disclosure of information from the national data collection**

The information collected by schools for the purposes of the 2018 national data collection will ultimately be provided to the Department. In some cases, this will involve the school passing the information directly to the Department, and in other cases the school will provide the information to its state or territory government agency (or other relevant body) in the first instance, depending on the school's particular arrangements. In such circumstances, that state or territory government agency, or other relevant body, will then provide the information to the Department.

The Department, on behalf of the Joint Working Group<sup>2</sup>, will use information from the national data collection for the purposes of preparing reports for and briefing the Australian Education Senior Officials Committee<sup>3</sup> and the Education Council in relation to the national data collection.

When providing these reports or briefing material, the Department will ensure that the information remains de-identified.

In December 2016, the Education Council released the report *Improving educational outcomes: Emergent data on students with disability in Australian schools*. The report provides high-level

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<sup>1</sup> In the event that NCCD information provided by an approved authority to the Department does inadvertently and indirectly enable the Department to reasonably identify an individual, the disclosure of that information by the approved authority, and the collection of that information by the Department, are both authorised by law for the purposes of the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth). Nevertheless, the Department will seek to further de-identify such NCCD information.

[Further information on the Department's Privacy Policy](http://www.education.gov.au/privacy-policy) (www.education.gov.au/privacy-policy) is available on the website.

<sup>2</sup> The Joint Working Group to Provide Advice on Reform for Students with Disability comprises representative members from all state and territory government educational authorities, Independent Schools Council of Australia, the National Catholic Education Commission, the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority, and the Australian Government.

<sup>3</sup> The Education Council is primarily supported by a group of senior officials with responsibility for school education, early childhood and higher education who meet as the Australian Education Senior Officials Committee. The Committee is directly responsible to Council for the execution of Education Council decisions. For more information about the [Australian Education Senior Officials Committee](http://www.educationcouncil.edu.au/EC-AESOC.aspx) visit [www.educationcouncil.edu.au/EC-AESOC.aspx](http://www.educationcouncil.edu.au/EC-AESOC.aspx).

data from the 2015 national data collection and was the first public release of data from the national collection.

This report was followed in May 2017 by the release of the report *2016 emergent data on students in Australian schools receiving adjustments for disability*, which contains data from the 2016 national data collection.

These reports are published on the [Reports and Publications page of the Education Council website](http://www.educationcouncil.edu.au/EC-Reports-and-Publications.aspx) (www.educationcouncil.edu.au/EC-Reports-and-Publications.aspx).

Information from the national data collection will also be used for policy development undertaken by the Department, including informing funding considerations relating to students with disability, and other policy development as agreed by the Education Council.

From 2018, the Commonwealth's student with disability funding loading for schools is based on the national data collection.

The document [Fairer funding for students with disability](http://www.docs.education.gov.au/node/43566) (www.docs.education.gov.au/node/43566), on the Department's website, provides more information.

## Contact

For further information about the collection, use or disclosure of information for the national data collection, please contact: [SWDPolicyTeam@education.gov.au](mailto:SWDPolicyTeam@education.gov.au).

Any questions parents/carers or schools have about the completion of the 2018 national data collection may be directed to:

- the relevant education authority contact listed in the [Contacts page of the Guidelines](http://docs.education.gov.au/node/50091) (docs.education.gov.au/node/50091) on the Department's website or
- the [Contacts page of the national professional learning website](http://www.schoolsdisabilitydatapl.edu.au/other-pages/contact-us) (www.schoolsdisabilitydatapl.edu.au/other-pages/contact-us) developed by Education Services Australia.



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The document must be attributed as the *Frequently Asked Questions for Schools* on Nationally Consistent Collection of Data – Students with Disability.