



26 July 2018

Dear Parents

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability in 2018

Each year Shore School is required by the Federal Government to take part in the nationally consistent collection of data on school students with disabilities. This legislated process is aimed at providing all Australian schools, education authorities and the community with a clear picture of the number of students with disabilities in schools and the adjustments they require to enable them to participate in education on the same basis as other students.

The definition of “disability” for the purposes of the data collection is very broad. It not only includes children with physical or intellectual impairments, but also children who have plans covering chronic medical conditions such as asthma or allergic reactions. It also includes some children who take part in our Learning Support and Counselling programmes, though not all. Please note that only aggregate data is collected; that is, numbers of children within the School who fall under different support categories. There is no personal or identifying data being disclosed as part of the collection process. While in previous years, parents had the ability to ‘opt-out’ of this data collection process, it is now mandatory for the School to provide this information on all identified students.

From 1 January 2018, the data collection will be used to calculate the student with disability loading in recurrent funding for schools provided by the Australian Government. This loading will now be based on the level of adjustment being provided to students.

What will the 2018 data collection involve?

Like last year, the 2018 data collection will involve the collection of the following information at the school level:

- the number of students receiving adjustments to enable them to participate in education on the same basis as other students;
- the level of adjustment provided (support provided within quality differentiated teaching practices, supplementary, substantial or extensive adjustments); and
- where known, the student’s type of disability.

Once this data has been collated, the School will de-identify the data so that no student names are captured before providing it to the Australian Government Department of Education.

What will the data be used for?

The Australian Government Department of Education will use the information collected for the purposes of preparing reports for briefing Education Ministers.¹



For the purposes of preparing these reports or briefing material, the Australian Government Department of Education will ensure the data is aggregated sufficiently so no student's identity could reasonably be ascertained. The aggregated data held by the Australian Government Department of Education may also be used to inform policy development for future funding and other policy requirements.

If you have any questions about the 2017 data collection, please direct your enquiries to Mrs Cate Fryda, our Director of Inclusion, on (02) 9956 1166.

Further information about the project can also be found in the following parent/carer factsheet

<https://docs.education.gov.au/node/32685>.

Yours faithfully



Kathy Dickson (Mrs)

Bursar

¹Education Ministers will receive advice on the Project through the Australian Education Early Childhood Development and Youth Senior Officials Committee and the Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood.

