

## Information for schools

### **WHAT IS THE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION?**

All schools in Australia participate in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (the national data collection). The national data collection is an annual collection that counts the number of school students with disability and the level of reasonable educational adjustment they are provided with.

This national data collection collects information about students with disability in a consistent, reliable and systematic way.

The national data collection draws on and reflects the ongoing work teachers and education staff do to support students with disability.

### **WHY IS THE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION NECESSARY?**

Previously there has been a lack of comprehensive and nationally comparable data about school students with disability. This nationally consistent approach will enable all governments to best target support and resources to assist these students to complete school and continue on a pathway to further education or employment.

The implementation of the national data collection will provide all Australian schools, education authorities and the community with information about:

- the number of school students with disability
- where they are located
- the level of reasonable adjustment provided for them to participate fully in schooling
- each student's broad type of disability.

The national data collection is also an opportunity for schools to review their learning and support systems and processes to continually improve education outcomes for their students with disability.

### **WHAT PROFESSIONAL LEARNING AND SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE FOR SCHOOL STAFF?**

Professional learning on the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (the DDA) and the Disability Standards for Education 2005 (the Standards) is available for schools. Contact your local educational authority or principal about what training is available in your area and how to access it. You can view or download a copy of the DDA and the Standards from [www.comlaw.gov.au](http://www.comlaw.gov.au).

The University of Canberra, in partnership with all Australian school systems, has developed a suite of online professional learning materials on the Disability Standards for Education 2005.

The e-learning resource is available under licence at <http://dse.theeducationinstitute.edu.au/login/>.

This resource provides school staff with an understanding of their responsibilities under the Standards to ensure that students with disability are able to access and participate in education on the same basis as other students.

There are licencing arrangements to access this resource. Contact your local education office or jurisdiction for more information. Contact details are available from [www.schooldisabilitydatapl.edu.au/#contactus\\_1](http://www.schooldisabilitydatapl.edu.au/#contactus_1).

School staff can also visit the purpose designed and built national data collection professional learning website at [www.schooldisabilitydatapl.edu.au](http://www.schooldisabilitydatapl.edu.au).

### **WHICH STUDENTS ARE INCLUDED IN THE DATA COLLECTION?**

In determining which students are counted in the national data collection, schools should draw on a range of evidence including: observation, teacher judgments, medical reports, individual learning plans, assessments and engagement with parents and carers as part of the process for determining and providing reasonable adjustments.

A student will only be included in the national data collection if they satisfy two criteria:

1. The student meets the definition of a person with disability as defined under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*.
2. The functional impact of the student's disability results in the school actively addressing their needs.

The national professional learning website has guidance materials to help schools to complete the national data collection.

### **WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DATA COLLECTION AT MY SCHOOL?**

The national data collection is a collaborative process involving teachers, principals and other school staff. However, principals are ultimately responsible for signing off on the national data collection for their schools.

### **HOW ARE DATA COLLECTED AND ARE A STUDENT'S PERSONAL DETAILS KEPT CONFIDENTIAL?**

School staff will draw on evidence at their school to identify the level of adjustment being provided for students with disability. They will record the level of adjustment being provided for each student and the broad category of disability that is the main driver for their adjustments.

To safeguard the privacy of individual students, only de-identified school level data will be used. School staff will only have access to data for their own school.

Further information about privacy is available in the Public Information Notice at [www.education.gov.au/notices](http://www.education.gov.au/notices).

### **HOW WILL THE INFORMATION BE USED?**

Only de-identified school level data on students with disability is submitted to education authorities, so anonymity and privacy of students is maintained.

The national data collection enables the collection of accurate information about the number of school students with disability, including the levels of adjustment and support provided, and will inform planning and decisions at the national, state and sector level. This information will assist all Australian schools to better meet their responsibilities under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and improve support for the learning needs of students with disability.

The national data collection will provide an evidence base on students with disability, the national distribution of students with disability and the level

of reasonable adjustment they receive. The processes around the national data collection, including the professional learning, have the potential to contribute to a more inclusive schooling system for all Australian students.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

For further information about the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability and related information visit:

[www.education.gov.au/nationally-consistent-collection-data-school-students-disability](http://www.education.gov.au/nationally-consistent-collection-data-school-students-disability)

[www.schooldisabilitydatapl.edu.au](http://www.schooldisabilitydatapl.edu.au).