About the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data

1. **What is the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability?**

The Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability is a collection of data from schools about the number of school students with disability. From 2015, this information will be collected in every school across Australian schools each year.

The Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability will help to put the right supports in place for students with disability so that they have the same opportunities for a high quality education as students without a disability.

2. **Why has the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability been introduced?**

There hasn’t been a nationally consistent picture of Australian school students with disability as the type of information currently collected by Australian schools has varied between each state and territory.

The Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability will mean for the first time, this information is transparent, consistent and reliable at a national level.
Better information about school students with disability will help teachers, principals and education authorities to support students with disability to take part in school on the same basis as students without disability. The data will also enable all governments to better target and more consistently support students with disability wherever they live and whatever school they attend so that they can participate in schooling on the same basis as other students.

In time, the processes around the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability will help reinforce the actions required of schools under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the *Disability Standards for Education 2005*.

It is also part of a wider suite of intersecting reforms to improve the lives of people with disability, including the National Disability Strategy 2012-2020 and the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

3.  *Isn’t data on school students with disability collected now?*

Although some data is currently collected, the method by which this is done varies significantly according to the state/territory of the student’s school.

A nationally consistent approach to collecting data on schools students with disability will provide evidence about the diversity of the Australian population of schools students with disability, how many school students with disability there are, where they are and the level of adjustments provided for them.

The implementation of the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability acknowledges the work already undertaken in schools across Australia to support students with disability. It will change and strengthen approaches to supporting school students with disability.

4.  *What are the next steps for the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability?*

In 2013, the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability was collected for the first time. This involved the participation of approximately 20 per cent of schools nationwide.

Following the success of the first year of implementing the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability in 2013, the Australian Government and all state and territory governments are committed to collecting this important data in 2014.

In 2014, the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability will cover a larger number of schools, will all schools undertaking the data collection annually from 2015.
5. **How will the data from the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability be used?**

The Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability will inform the development of a funding loading for students with disability that is fair and accurately reflects the provisions provided to students. The data will also enable all governments to better target and more consistently support students with disability wherever they live and whatever school they attend so that they can participate in schooling on the same basis as other students.

Data collected in 2013 and 2014 will not be publicly available to ensure that the data is being captured accurately and consistently. The aggregated, school-level data collected in 2015 is expected to be available on My School from 2016, subject to the confirmation of data quality.

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6. **Who is overseeing the implementation of the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability?**

It is being overseen by the Australian Government and all state/territory governments. A Joint Working Group to Provide Advice on Reform for Students with Disability has provided advice and oversight for this work since 2011. This was established through the Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood (SCSEEC).

The Joint Working Group to Provide Advice on Reform for Students with Disability, chaired by the Australian Government Department of Education, includes representation from state and territory government education authorities, the Independent Schools Council of Australia (ISCA), the National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC), and the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA).