

## **CECV Students with Disabilities (SWD) Program**

The Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV) Students with Disabilities (SWD) Program aimed to improve the learning outcomes of educationally disadvantaged students, especially in reading and writing ability and numeracy. Each year, schools could submit SWD applications in either Round 1 (October) or Round 2 (February). Eligibility for the program was then decided by the CECV SWD Committee.

There were seven disability categories: physical disability, chronic health impairment, severe language disorder (including severe developmental verbal dyspraxia), intellectual disability (including global developmental delay), hearing impairment, vision impairment and social-emotional disorders (including autism spectrum disorder). Each disability category had criteria and documentation requirements that had to be met.

Disability funding for Victorian Catholic schools from Federal and State government sources was based on eligible SWD students flagged on the census.

## **Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD)**

The *Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD)* is a process that all schools must do every year. It counts the number of students who receive extra adjustments or 'help' at school because of a disability, as defined by the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#) (DDA).

To count a student in the NCCD, schools must think through some key questions:

1. Is the student getting help at school so that they can take part in education on the same basis as other students?
2. Is the help given because of a disability? The word 'disability' comes from the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#) (DDA) and it can include many students.
3. Has the school talked to you or your child about the help that they provide?
4. Has the school kept records about the help they provide, the student needs and the reasons that the student needs this help? The school will need to keep copies of tests, student work, assessments, records of meetings, medical reports or other paperwork and information about how the student's learning is moving along over time.

Once the school decides that the student should be counted in the NCCD, they then choose a disability group and one of four levels of help that has been given to the student.

There are four disability categories: physical, cognitive, sensory and social-emotional. There are four levels of adjustments: quality differentiated teaching practice (QDTP), supplementary, substantial and extensive adjustments.



student in NCCD. Teachers can use all that they know about the child's learning and the records that they have collected over time to decide if a student can be counted in the NCCD.

### **What sort of help does the school give students?**

Students need different types of help at school. Some students need a little help sometimes while other students need a lot of help nearly all the time. The type of help given depends on the needs of the student. The help can include changes to the school buildings or grounds (e.g. ramps or things like special desks or chairs), extra teacher help in classes, special learning programs, changes to the work they give the student or extra adult help.

### **How will the NCCD be different in 2018?**

All schools have been counting students in the NCCD since 2015. The government will use the NCCD data as part of the funding to schools.

### **What will the school need to know about my child for the NCCD?**

Schools work together with families to understand the needs of each student. It is helpful if families give their child's teacher a copy of any letters or reports they have. The letters or reports will help the school understand the student and the help that they might need. Letters from doctors, psychologists, speech pathologists and occupational therapists etc. can be very helpful for schools. These reports, along with information that the teacher has (i.e. school based tests, your child's work and learning plans), helps the school to understand and meet the student's needs.

### **What happens to the NCCD data? Who will have the NCCD information?**

Each school principal must check the NCCD data in August of each year. The school will give the information to the Catholic Education Office. The school will work with the Catholic Education Office to make sure that the NCCD data is OK before they give the data to the government. The government will not be given the names of any students or any letters or records. Please ask your school for their privacy policy if you need to know more.

### **Does the school need me to agree with them about counting my child in the NCCD?**

Changes were made to the law ([Australian Education Act 2013](#) and [Australian Education Regulation 2013](#)). Schools do not need you to agree to let them count a child in the NCCD. You cannot ask the school not to count your child.

### **Where can I find out more?**

If you have questions, you can ask your child's school for help. You can find out more by looking at these links:

- [NCCD national website](#)
- [Disability Standards for Education 2005](#)
- [Australian Government Department of Education and Training–NCCD](#)
- [2019 Students with Disabilities \(SWD\) Information Sheet for Schools, Parents, Carers and Guardians.](#)