



**Nationally Consistent
Collection of Data**
School Students with Disability



Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability in 2014 - Privacy Notice

Purpose

The purpose of this privacy notice is to provide students, parents and guardians with information in relation to the second phase of the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability.

Background

In May 2013 all Education Ministers from Commonwealth, state and territory governments endorsed the implementation of a nationally consistent collection of data on school students with disability in all Australian schools (government, independent and Catholic).

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

This national data collection is being phased in over a three year period, with the first data collection conducted in October 2013 and the second data collection to occur in the second half of 2014 ('the 2014 national data collection'). Certain schools around Australia have been selected to participate in the 2014 national data collection.

The 2014 national data collection will involve participating schools collecting 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 (no adjustment at this time, supplementary, substantial or extensive adjustment); and
- where known, the student's type of disability.

Student names **will not** be captured.

Certain data collected by participating schools in the 2014 national data collection will ultimately be provided to the Australian Government Department of Education (the Department). Further detail on this, including the purposes for which the Department will use the data is set out below.

Privacy Protection

The *Privacy Act 1988* regulates the handling of personal information by Australian Government agencies including the Department, the ACT Government and certain private sector organisations. Personal information is 'information or an opinion (whether true or not and whether recorded in a material form or not) about an identified individual, or an individual who is reasonably identifiable'.

Even though students' names will not be captured, it is recognised that there is a small possibility that a student may be reasonably identifiable from the information passed to the Department, such that it constitutes personal information.

All personal information collected by the Department is protected by the Privacy Act.

The Department's Privacy Policy, including further information about how individuals can access and correct personal information the Department may hold, or how to make a privacy complaint to the Department, is available at www.education.gov.au/privacy.

Collection and disclosure of school level information

The information collected by schools for the purposes of the 2014 national data collection will ultimately be provided to the Department. In some cases this will involve the school passing the data directly to the Department and in other cases the school will provide the data to its state and territory government agency or other relevant body, depending on the school's particular arrangements. The state and territory government agency or other body will further aggregate the data at the state and territory level before providing the data to the Department.

The Department, on behalf of the Joint Working Group*, will use the information collected for the purposes of preparing reports for and briefing the Australian Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Senior Officials Committee ('AEEYSOC') and the Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood ('SCSEEC') in relation to the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability. For the purposes of preparing these reports or briefing material, the Department will ensure that the information is aggregated sufficiently so that no student's identity could reasonably be ascertained.

The aggregated information held by the Department may also be used as an input to policy development for future funding and other policy requirements as required by SCSEEC.

The Department will not otherwise disclose any personal information to third parties, including overseas recipients, without consent or unless authorised or required by law.

Contact

For further information about the collection, use or disclosure of information for the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability please contact: (02) 6240 5115 or Kimberley.McDonald@deewr.gov.au.

*The Joint Working Group to Provide Advice on Reform for Students with Disability is comprised of 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.