



# SHALOM COLLEGE

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29 July 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

This letter has been sent to **all** parents and carers of students in our school to inform them of our participation in the 2016 data collection.

## **Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on Students with Disability**

All schools in Australia are required to participate in the 2016 Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability.

### **What is the National Collection of Data on School Students with Disability?**

All Australian governments have agreed to work together to implement a new annual national data collection on school students with disability. This data collection process has been phased in over a three year period from 2013-2015. The first two years were a transition period.

In 2015, the first full national collection of data on school students with disability occurred in all Australian schools. From then on, this data collection will occur in every school, every year, along with other school data collections.

### **What does disability mean?**

This national data collection will reinforce the actions required of schools under the National Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and the Disability Standards for Education 2005. The significant change with this collection is the use of a broader definition of disability than the one currently used to identify and allocate resources in educational systems. As a result of this shift in the definition we believe that more students in our community may be considered eligible for identification in the data collection. These laws mean that schools and education systems are required to make, where needed, reasonable adjustments for students with disability.

### **What is an adjustment?**

An adjustment is a measure or action taken to assist a student with disability to participate in education on the same basis as other students. Adjustments can be made across the whole school setting, in the classroom and at the individual level. Some students with disability, at particular stages during their time at school, may not require any personalised adjustments beyond the differentiation that teachers provide to all students on a day-to-day basis. Differentiation occurs when teachers use a variety of teaching strategies to cater for reasonable adjustments for students with disability. Differentiation is not the same as personalised adjustments made for individual students. Differentiation is part of good teaching practice.

### **What will this mean for my child?**

Determining the level and type of support needed for an individual student is not a new activity for Australian schools. The information provided by this new data collection will enable all Australian governments to better target support and resources to assist students

with disability in both government and non-government schools. More accurate information about school students with disability will assist teachers, principals and education authorities to support access and participation in schooling for students with disability on the same basis as students without disability.

### **What information will be collected?**

In 2016 the data will be collected on Friday 5 August 2016 and will include:

- Total number of school students
- Number of students with disability by school level enrolment (primary/secondary)
- Number of students within disability type (physical, social/emotional, cognitive or sensory)
- Level of adjustment provided (Support provided within quality differentiated teaching practice, supplementary, substantial or extensive)

Information will be recorded in such a way to be sure that no child can be identified. **Student names will not be collected by the Diocesan Catholic Education Office.**

### **Further information**

Further information can be found at the following website including parent/carer factsheets.

<http://education.gov.au/what-nationally-consistent-collection-data-school-students-disability>

Should you have questions, the school contact person is Mrs Elizabeth Austin-Campbell.

### **What do I need to do?**

If, after reading this information, you decide that you **do not** want any information on your child's educational adjustments added to the data please complete the attached form and submit it to the school office by Wednesday 3 August, 2016.

Kind regards

*B. Austin-Campbell*

**(Mrs) Elizabeth Austin-Campbell  
Acting Principal**



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## PARENT/CARER WITHDRAWAL OF CONSENT FORM

### NATIONALLY CONSISTENT COLLECTION OF DATA ON STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY

I/we [**Name of parent/carer**] \_\_\_\_\_ have been informed of the purpose and extent of the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on Students with Disability process. Based on our understanding of the process as outlined by the school and from the website <http://education.gov.au/what-nationally-consistent-collection-data-school-students-disability> we choose for our child's information on educational adjustments implemented to be **excluded** from the Nationally Consistent Data Collection.

Child/ren Name/s: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Care Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_