

## **Collection of school information by the Australian Government under the *Australian Education Act 2013***

Dear Parent/Guardian

### **Collection of information about schools**

The Australian Government provides funding to Australian schools under the *Australian Education Act 2013*. That Act and the associated *Australian Education Regulation 2013* require that your child's school provide the Australian Government with certain information about the school, its financial arrangements, and its student body, in order that the funding is properly calculated and accounted for.

### **What information is collected by the Australian Government?**

The authority that operates your child's school such as, a state or territory education department, a Catholic Education Office, or an independent school authority, will provide basic information about the school to the Australian Government, such as its name, address, contact details, years of schooling, and number and makeup of its staff.

The authority must provide the Australian Government with information about the school's finances, including annual audited financial statements and certification that Government funding has been used for proper purposes relating to education.

In addition, the authority will provide certain performance information at an aggregate level, including student attendance rates, student results in the National Assessment Program, and for secondary schools, post-school student destinations; such as going into the workforce, vocational education and training, or higher education.

The authority is required to publish much of this information, and it is also published by the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) on the myschool web site at [www.myschool.edu.au](http://www.myschool.edu.au).

The school authority must also provide information to the Australian Government about the makeup of the school's student body during an annual school census. This is because Australian Government funding varies according to whether students are primary, secondary, receiving distance education, or are overseas students; and is calculated to provide additional funding, called 'loadings', for students at educational disadvantage.

The authority must provide information about the number of students attending the school, including the number of:

- primary and secondary students
- full-time and part-time students
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students
- students with disability
- students with low English proficiency
- students receiving distance education
- boarding students
- overseas students.

There may be other circumstances in which a school authority will voluntarily provide information about individual students to the department, when seeking additional funding for those students. Most commonly, these are where a student has not been in attendance at a school during the annual school census but the authority wishes to receive funding for him or her, and where the authority believes that the demographics of the students at the school are not representative of the households in the ABS statistical areas serviced by the school.

Other than in exceptional circumstances (for example, investigation of fraud relating to overseas students), the department does not disclose personal information to any overseas recipients.

### **Contacts for further information**

If you have questions about the collection of information about schools by the Australian Government under the Australian Education Act 2013, please contact:

The Recurrent Assistance for Schools team at: [GrantsandData.help@education.gov.au](mailto:GrantsandData.help@education.gov.au).

The Department of Education's privacy policy is available on the department's website at [www.education.gov.au](http://www.education.gov.au). The privacy policy contains information about:

- how individuals can access and seek correction of the personal information held by the department
- how complaints about breaches of the *Privacy Act 1988* can be made
- how the department will deal with these complaints.

If you wish to contact the department about privacy related matters, please e-mail the department at [privacy@deewr.gov.au](mailto:privacy@deewr.gov.au) or write to:

Privacy Contact Officer

Legal and Compliance Group  
Location C12MT1  
Department of Education  
GPO Box 9980  
Canberra ACT 2601