



AN IMPROMATION EBOOK

WHAT SCHOOLS REALLY THINK OF NCCD

A deep dive into NCCD data collection, storage and processing throughout Australian schools

Impromation

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FOREWORD

In researching the market and industry for our latest product ezNCCD we found that information, processes and communication around the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD) was often ambiguous and unnecessarily complicated.

NCCD has made positive changes to the way schools and students have access to disability resources and funding removing red tape and making student support more accessible. However, several years after its implementation schools and educators are still experiencing difficulties.

Here at ImproMation we like to use data and facts to guide our decisions and when we came across the thorough Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC) audit, 2016 NCCD Continuous Quality Improvement Project, we were certainly interested in the findings.

If we know one thing for sure its that educators and teachers don't have the time to read multi page audit documents so we've taken the liberty of summarising some of the key points to come out of the PWC audit. I have found it an interesting read and it has certainly provided many valuable insights for the creation of ezNCCD, our customer focused NCCD software solution.

Michael Tunks

Founder and Director
The ImproMation Group



SUMMARY

- The NCCD has changed the way schools and educators report and view disability in their student cohort
- With educator's professional judgement being a key factor in adjustment decisions, some teachers are finding NCCD data collection challenging
- Teacher time constraints are a major factor, as are convoluted data collection processes
- The PWC audit identified five challenges faced by schools and educators



AREAS THAT PRESENT THE GREATEST CHALLENGES TO SCHOOLS

1. Implementing an approach that relies on professional judgement

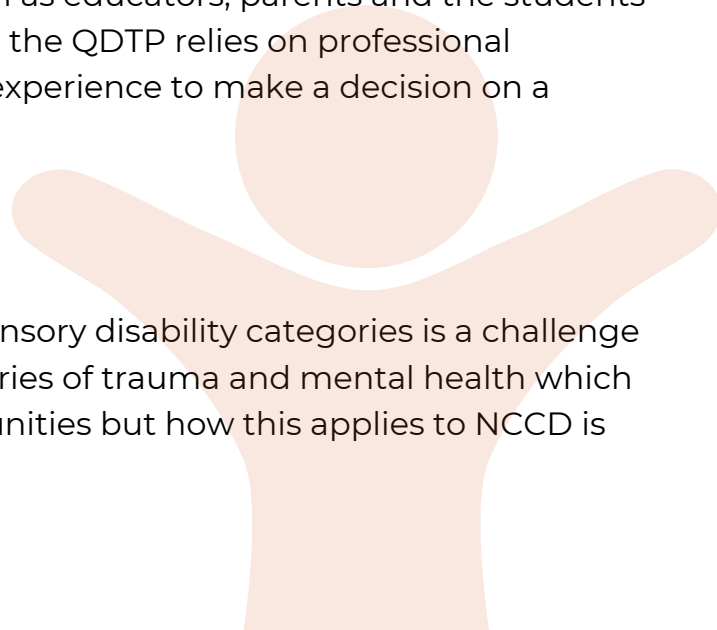
The report found that in some cases, teachers are uncomfortable making a professional judgement which would affect a student's inclusion in the NCCD program. In the past, medical professionals would have signed off on disability related paperwork and there is sometimes an insecurity among some teachers to make a disability judgement for including a student in the NCCD.

2. Use of the QDTP level of adjustment

It was highlighted that teachers are satisfied with the Quality Differentiated Teaching Practice (QDTP) as a measure of disability. This allows teachers to measure all efforts being made with learning adjustments to enable students with disability access to learning. This collation of information is helpful to inform a range of individuals working with the student such as educators, parents and the students themselves. However, as with the first point, the QDTP relies on professional judgement as the educator draws on their experience to make a decision on a student's inclusion.

3. Deciding on category of disability

Distinguishing between the physical and sensory disability categories is a challenge for many schools. Also noted are the categories of trauma and mental health which are commonly recognised in school communities but how this applies to NCCD is not well communicated.



4. Multiple data collections

Schools reported the confusion that comes from two reporting methods - the census and the NCCD. While the census provides a count of overall students receiving categories of disability funding, the NCCD requires the collection of more multifaceted data for a wider range of students and not only those for whom government funding is available.

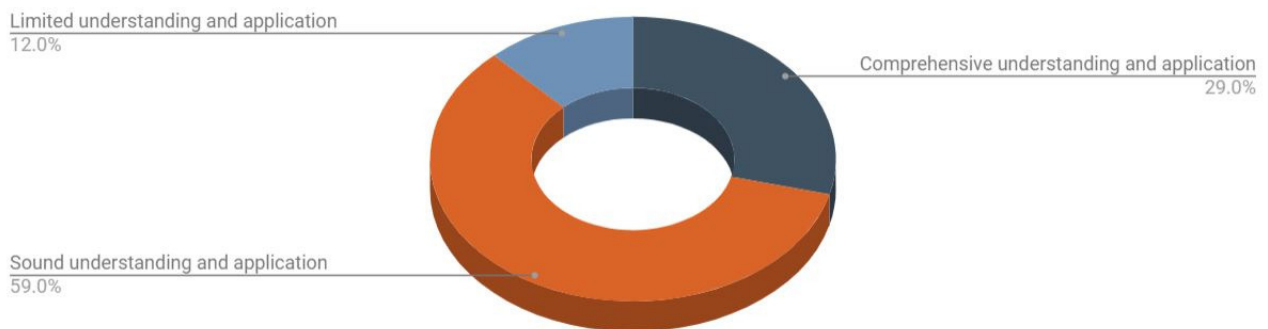
Added to this confusion is differing criteria by state for eligibility for state government funding for disability.

5. Time Constraints

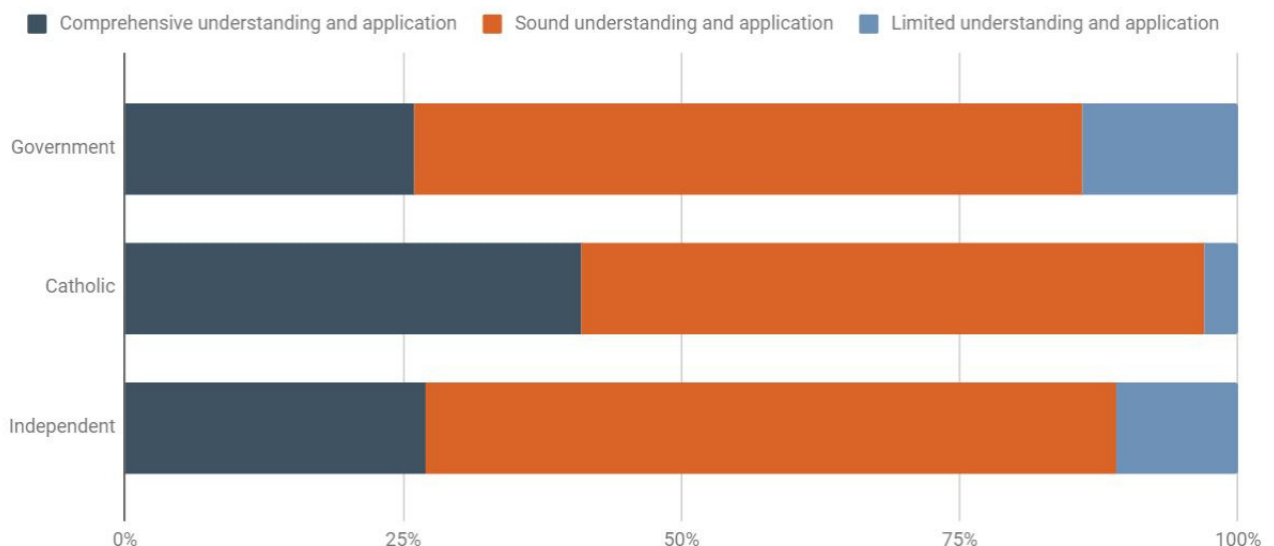
The time required of educators is one of the most significant challenges facing schools. Schools have emphasised a need for systems which make data collation easy.



Understanding and application of the NCCD model among 504 schools in the random sample, 2016 results



Understanding by sector



WHAT CAN BE DONE TO MAKE THE NCCD PROCESS EASIER?

Overall PWC found schools were accurately reporting level of alignment at a rate of 77 - 83% (defined by school sector - Catholic, independent and public) and recommended that more training and support be given to individuals who are required to make a disability assessment.

Literature Reviews show that over time, a teacher's professional judgement to assess disability will come more naturally as society shifts away from a focus on medical diagnosis as the key indicator of a disability. Likewise, if a better understanding of the difference between the census and NCCD is gained, teachers can support both rather than a perception among some that it is a duplication of effort.

**“The data collected in the NCCD is of sufficient quality to inform policy at the national level”
- PWC CQIP Final Report, 2016**

For simplification of data /evidence collection and storage, a software tool such as ezNCCD is required to make the process as simple as possible. Teachers have identified time constraints as being a major impediment and with the introduction of quality software, NCCD evidence collection can be much easier.

Although NCCD is not without its challenges, the PWC report found it to be an accurate disability classification process. “The data collected in the NCCD is of sufficient quality to inform policy at the national level” the report stated.



ABOUT ezNCCD

ezNCCD is evidence collection software designed by leading education software company, ImproMation. Joining ImproMation's suite of 15 other education software programs used by schools all over Australia, ezNCCD is designed specifically for use in NCCD.

ezNCCD supports the trend towards collating data throughout the year by providing an easy to use interface with drop and drag capability to quickly and effortlessly store student documents, photographs and anecdotal evidence.

Security is of the utmost importance with admin, confidential and read-only user settings to allow the safe sharing of student information. Automated reports and quick file uploads enable easy transfer and analysis of information while retaining student data in organised and easy to navigate filing systems.

ezNCCD is available as a subscription cloud based software from The ImproMation Group.

www.impromotion.com/products/eznccd



Source of all data and facts referenced in this document: 2016 NCCD Continuous Quality Improvement Project by Price Waterhouse Coopers (2017)

THE IMPROMATION GROUP

We are educators developing for educators – so our software works the way you expect it to work. We share the thrill of innovation and contributing to improving outcomes for students and have been doing this for over 15 years in schools throughout Australia.

E: info@impromotion.com.au

P: 02 9533 9233

**PO Box 158, Hurstville
NSW 1481, AUSTRALIA**

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