

ANNUAL REPORT 2012

Ministerial Advisory Committee: Students with Disabilities

Report for the
Minister for Education and Child Development



Government
of South Australia

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Ministerial Advisory Committee: Students with Disabilities Annual Report 2012

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1 Introduction

Role and Purpose

The Ministerial Advisory Committee: Students with Disabilities (MAC: SWD) was established by the South Australian Minister for Education in 1989. The role and purpose of the Committee is to:

- ensure the equitable, transparent and accountable distribution of Commonwealth and State money through State Government funding to eligible organisations, which support the care and education of children and students with disability in early years intervention programs, child care, preschools and schools across the three education sectors in South Australia
- support the capacity of non-government organisations to provide services to children and students with disability in early years intervention programs, child care, preschools and schools across the three education sectors in South Australia
- undertake projects and provide advice on matters concerning the care and education of children and students with disability as requested by the Minister for Education and Child Development.

Context Statement

MAC: SWD is one of five committees supported by the Office of Non-Government Schools and services, which was established in August 2011.

Our Vision

Children and students with disability achieve in their learning communities acquiring skills and attitudes for life-long learning and citizenship.

Our Mission

To ensure equitable and efficient allocation of State Government funding to eligible organisations providing care and education related services to children and students with disability across the three education sectors, and to support our stakeholders on matters concerning the education and care of children and students with disability.

Our Values

Respect	Our behaviour recognises the values, diversity and contribution of individuals.
Diligence	We are careful and persistent in our application and effort and strive for continuous improvement.
Integrity	We act honestly and ethically.
Fairness	We are unbiased and impartial in all our undertakings.
Transparency	Our systems and decision making processes are understandable and open to scrutiny.
Connectedness	Our work is relevant to and supportive of our stakeholders.
Accountability	We are accountable for our decisions and actions.

Ministerial Advisory Committee: Students with Disabilities (MAC: SWD) Membership

Standing Committee

Members of MAC: SWD are appointed by the Minister for Education and Child Development to serve a twelve-month term, although in some instances this term is extended. They are chosen for their knowledge and experience in relation to children and students with disability. Committee members consist of educators representing the three education sectors, parents, disability professionals, a student, nominees of the Minister for Education and Child Development, education unions and professional associations.

As a rule the Standing Committee meets once a month, with the exception of January and April. In 2012 the Standing Committee met nine times.

MEMBERSHIP

<i>Ms Margaret Wallace</i>	Chairperson
<i>Dr Mary Bambacas</i>	Deputy Chairperson (parent)
<i>Ms Jackie Ah Kit</i>	Minister's Nominee Aboriginal Students with Disability
<i>Ms Gabby Aschberger</i>	Association of Independent Schools of SA
<i>Ms Erica Baker</i>	Independent Education Union (SA)
<i>Dr Kerry Bissaker</i>	Minister's Nominee (professional)
<i>Ms Vivian Cagliuso</i>	Minister's Nominee (parent)
<i>Ms Helen Connolly</i>	Early Childhood Australia (SA Branch)
<i>Ms Jillian Denys</i>	Australian Association of Special Education (AASE) SA Chapter
<i>Ms Stephanie Grant</i>	Catholic Education SA
<i>Ms Cathie Home</i>	Early Childhood Australia (SA Branch) resigned 16 June 2012, replaced by Ms Helen Connolly
<i>Ms Helen Kowalenko</i>	Department for Education and Child Development, Early Years
<i>Ms Deidre Le Maistre</i>	Australian Education Union (SA Branch)
<i>Ms Tanya Millican</i>	Minister's Nominee Aboriginal Students with Disability, resigned 25 May 2012, replaced by Ms Jackie Ah Kit
<i>Mr Glenn Rappensberg</i>	National Disability Services, Sub Committee: Children, Young People and their Families
<i>Mr Nick Schumi</i>	Minister's Nominee (student)
<i>Ms Sue Sodeman</i>	Department for Education and Child Development, School Years
<i>Ms Kath Vannan</i>	Department for Communities and Social Inclusion Community and Home Support: Disability Services
<i>Dr Keren Wicks</i>	Australian Association of Special Education (AASE) SA Chapter resigned 30 March 2012, replaced by Ms Jillian Denys

Funding Approval Group

The Funding Approval Group is a subgroup of MAC: SWD that oversees the annual funding process. Final decisions about funding recommendations are made by the Standing Committee.

MEMBERSHIP

<i>Ms Margaret Wallace</i>	Chairperson
<i>Dr Mary Bambacas</i>	Deputy Chairperson
<i>Ms Gabby Aschberger</i>	Association of Independent Schools of SA
<i>Ms Stephanie Grant</i>	Catholic Education SA
<i>Ms Sue Sodeman</i>	Department for Education and Child Development, School Years
<i>Dr Kerry Bissaker</i>	Minister's Nominee (professional)

Funding Approval Group non-members:

<i>Ms Jo Shearer</i>	MAC: SWD Executive Officer
<i>Ms Miriam Parsons</i>	Project and Policy Officer
<i>Ms Carolyn Parker</i>	Office of Non-Government Schools and Services (ONGSS) Business Manager

Members of the Standing Committee may be asked to attend Funding Approval Group meetings when necessary. Funding Approval Group meetings usually follow the Standing Committee meetings. In 2012 the Funding Approval Group met nine times.

Secretariat Staff

<i>Ms Jo Shearer</i>	Executive Officer
<i>Ms Maria DeFazio</i>	Administrative Services Officer
<i>Ms Vicki Castle</i>	Administrative Services Officer
<i>Ms Miriam Parsons</i>	Project and Policy Officer
<i>Mr Skye Yuill</i>	Project and Policy Officer

2 | Funding

Overview of Funding Process

The Minister for Education and Child Development is responsible for the allocation of State Government Special Education grants to eligible organisations providing education and therapy related services for children and students with disability in South Australia. Eligible non-government organisations have in the past been able to apply for grants under the Non-Government Centres Support element of the Commonwealth Government *Literacy, Numeracy and Special Learning Needs Programme (Schools Assistance [Learning Together – Achievement Through Choice and Opportunity] Act 2004)*. Funding for this element is now part of Specific Purpose Payments to South Australia under the National Education Agreement between the states and territories and the Commonwealth Government. Grants are allocated under the National Equity Program.

The Committee administers the allocation of National Equity Program grants to non-government organisations on behalf the Minister for Education and Child Development. In addition, the Committee administers State Government grants on behalf of the Minister, which are available to provide additional support for children and students with disability with very specific needs.

Funding Allocations

National Equity Program Grants

Each year, organisations applying for National Equity Program grants submit a written report to MAC: SWD outlining child/student numbers and the levels of service provided directly to the child/student and to their care or education provider. The data submitted represent services provided in the preceding financial year, and are verified by education sector representatives who are members of the committee, before being applied to the committee's funding formula. Data for early years intervention services are verified by officers of the MAC: SWD secretariat.

In 2009 MAC: SWD reviewed its funding model in response to a request from the three education sectors, which sought more intense direct service for children and students with high needs at their preschools and schools. This review was conducted over a period of eighteen months in consultation with education sector representatives and non-government organisations providing services. The new funding model came into effect from 2011. It was agreed that grants should still be allocated retrospectively and the amount would depend on the level and type of service provided by the organisations. Exceptions are made in three cases; base grants are allocated to three small early years intervention programs.

The new funding model consists of three elements:

- **General Support:** measuring the number of children and students who have received any type of service. Thirty per cent of the total available funding is allocated to this component.
- **Specific Service:** measuring the amount of time a direct service has been provided to a child or student in minutes. Organisations must achieve a minimum of 120 minutes of Early Years Intervention service per child per semester, or 360 minutes of School Support service per student per semester, for their service minutes to be counted. This structure is designed to encourage a high level of intensive, direct support. Sixty per cent of the total available funding is allocated to this component.
- **Outreach Service:** measuring the number of children and students who live in rural and regional areas who have received Specific Service of any duration. Ten per cent of the total available funding is allocated to this component.

Grant allocations to non-government organisations fluctuate on an annual basis. They depend on the finite total budget for the Program and the level of service provided to individual children and students by each of the organisations funded.

The funding provided to organisations has been and will continue to be targeted to provide learning and development opportunities for children with disability who are below school age to prepare them for entry into preschools or schools and to assist school-aged children with disability by improving their access to educational programs.

The allocation of funds for the National Equity Program for the 2012 calendar year was \$4,112,166.

State Government Grants

Three programs were eligible for State Government grants in 2012, namely the Women's and Children's Health Network's Access Assistant Program, Families SA's Out of Home Care Tutoring Program and the Joint Sector Intensive and Crisis Support Program.

The Access Assistant Program supports children with severe physical disability and/or complex health care needs in preschools and schools across the three education sectors in South Australia. Without this program many children would not be able to attend their school and would need to stay in hospital. The South Australian Government wholly funds the program. In 2012 the program received \$2,627,000.

The Out of Home Care Tutoring Program funding provides assistance to children and young people who have been assessed as having disability, are living in out-of-home situations and require extra tutoring to participate in their school curriculum. Assessment for tutoring services must be tied to a Negotiated Education Plan (NEP) or the equivalent in a non-government school. The South Australian Government wholly funds this service. In 2012 the amount of funding allocated was \$72,000.

MAC: SWD manages funding for the Joint Sector Intensive and Crisis Support Program, which is accessible to the three education sectors in South Australia. This funding provides school based support for children and students during a period of unexpected need, often due to complex health support requirements on return to school after hospitalisation. An amount of \$45,000 was allocated to support this program in 2012.

Total State Government Special Education Grant Allocations

The total amount allocated in 2012 was \$6,856,166.

Organisations/programs that received grants in 2012 consisted of:

- 10 non-government organisations offering Early Years Intervention and/or School Support programs (see note below)
- the Women's and Children's Health Network's Access Assistant Program
- Department for Education and Child Development Families SA Out of Home Care Tutoring Program
- the Joint Sector Intensive and Crisis Support Program.

Note: Funding to seven of the ten non-government organisations was allocated retrospectively (as described earlier). The basis of funding for calendar year 2012 was data on services provided from the beginning of Term 3 2010 (July) to the end of Term 2 2011 (June). The remaining three non-government organisations that provide Early Years Intervention programs were provided with base grants.

TABLE 1: 2012 Funding Allocations

State Government Special Education Grants for 2012			
State Government Grant (for January to December 2012)		\$ (GST exclusive)	
Women and Children's Health Network Access Assistant Program		2,627,000	
Families SA Out of Home Care Tutoring Program		72,000	
Joint Sector Intensive and Crisis Support Program		45,000	\$2,744,000
National Equity Program Grants (for January to December 2012)		\$ (GST exclusive)	
Autism SA	Early Years Intervention	454,859	
	School Support	834,283	1,289,142
Novita Children's Services	Early Years Intervention	1,065,980	
	School Support	536,149	1,602,129
Down Syndrome Society	Early Years Intervention	82,988	
	School Support	55,199	138,187
Cora Barclay Centre	Early Years Intervention	258,130	
	School Support	103,474	361,604
Townsend House	Early Years Intervention	145,692	
	School Support	92,758	238,450
Guide Dogs Association	Early Years Intervention	3,177	
	School Support	62,008	65,185
Inclusive Directions	Early Years Intervention		304,969
Miriam High Special Needs Centre, Port Augusta (Base grant)	Early Years Intervention		70,000
Lower Eyre Peninsula Special Needs Playgroup (Base grant)	Early Years Intervention		15,000
Seaton Early Development Program (Base grant)	Early Years Intervention		27,500
			\$4,112,166
TOTAL			\$6,856,166

Number of Children and Students Supported

Data on the number of children and students registered and who received services during the 2011/2012 financial year was collected during 2012. These data were used to inform funding for the upcoming year (2013). Based on an average over four terms and for all funded non-government organisations, there were 2208 children registered for Early Years Intervention services and 6239 students for School Support services. Of these (averaged over the four terms), 3188 children and students received a service, of which 1691 children (53%), received an Early Years Intervention service, and 1497 students (47%) received a School Support service.

During the same period of time, the Women's and Children's Health Network's Access Assistant Program provided services, on average, to 230 children and students with complex health needs. Thirty-one children and students were supported through the Joint Sector Intensive and Crisis Support Program for 950 hours in total. Additionally, administrators for the Out of Home Care Tutoring Program reported that during 2011 a total of 53 students with disability received services. This was an increase from the previous year, when 47 students were supported through this program.

Overall, on average, a total of 3502 children and students with disability received additional services to support their early years development and access to educational services from June 2011 to July 2012.

TABLE 2: Average Program Numbers (based on service provision data provided from Term 3 2011 to Term 2 2012)

Non-Government Organisations		
Autism SA Early Years Intervention	362	
Autism SA School Support	576	938
Novita Children's Services Early Years Intervention	409	
Novita Children's Services School Support	607	1016
Down Syndrome Society Early Years Intervention	61	
Down Syndrome Society School Support	38	99
Cora Barclay Centre Early Years Intervention	75	
Cora Barclay Centre School Support	127	202
Townsend House Early Years Intervention	117	
Townsend House School Support	106	223
Guide Dogs Association Early Years Intervention	3	
Guide Dogs Association School Support	43	46
Inclusive Directions Early Years Intervention		615
Lower Eyre Peninsula Special Needs Playgroup		9
Early Development Program (Seaton)		10
Miriam High Special Needs Centre (Port Augusta)		30
		3188
Other Programs		
Women and Children's Health Network Access Assistant Program		230
Families SA Out of Home Care Tutoring Program ¹		53
Joint Sector Intensive and Crisis Support Program		31
		314
TOTAL		3502

¹ Families SA 2011 data

3 Projects

Each year, MAC: SWD undertakes a number of statewide projects that have been approved by the Minister for Education and Child Development. These projects may be initiated by the Minister or suggested by the Committee.

All projects focus on children and students with disability and are relevant to the three education sectors (i.e. State, Catholic and Independent preschools and schools) or child care services. Project groups are convened for most projects and members are chosen for their experience and expertise in the particular topic. Five projects which began in 2011 were carried over to 2012. Summaries of the projects are provided below. Once approved by the Minister reports are made available on the Committee's website www.macswd.sa.edu.au.

Further to these, a review of services provided by non-government organisations based on data previously provided to MAC: SWD began in 2010. The report of this project was submitted to the Minister in July 2011. The findings provide base-line information upon which to evaluate the effect of the new MAC: SWD funding model, which was implemented during 2011. The new funding model was designed to encourage more direct service to children and students with high support needs in early years intervention programs, preschools and schools and, in particular, to encourage outreach services to children and students in remote and rural communities. Individual organisations received separate summary reports relevant to their organisation at the beginning of 2012. In addition, a data reporting template, which was developed during 2011 to improve consistency in service reporting by the non-government organisations, was trialled in 2012 with a view to extensive use from 2013 onwards. Staff of non-government organisations participated in a training day on the use of the template in July 2012.

Support for Children and Students with Disability Information Resource

In 2006 the Committee published a resource for families, educators and care providers that gave an overview of support services for children and students with disability across the education, health and disability sectors. This resource was distributed to all care services, preschools and schools in South Australia. The Committee had received feedback that this resource was very helpful and used widely in the care and education communities. It was requested that the resource be updated with current information.

The update of the resource commenced in 2011 and continued during 2012. Recent major reforms in the areas of education and disability services have impacted significantly on the content of the resource. These ongoing developments, along with the global trend to provide information electronically, led to the Committee's decision toward the end of 2012 to publish the updated resource on the MAC: SWD website rather than distribute it in hard copy. The project will continue in 2013 (see Section 5, Future activities: Projects for 2013).

Disability Services and Children’s Centres for Early Childhood and Parenting

The purpose of this project was to investigate how families of children with disability and additional needs use Children’s Centres for Early Childhood Development and Parenting (Children’s Centres) and how disability organisations and other service providers assist these children and families to access and participate in these centres.

The project group found the model of integrated services available through Children’s Centres is working well for families of children with disability and additional needs.

Findings from the study gave rise to the recommendation that changes are made to the Occasional Care program to assist in the full inclusion of children with disability and additional needs. The findings also show that Children’s Centres have a high number of children with a speech and language impairment—because of this the report recommends Speech Pathology services, including direct therapy services, be made available for children with disability and additional needs at Children’s Centres.

The report also recommends that staff of Children’s Centres and disability service organisations continue to engage regularly and share with one another information about programs and services that are available for children with disability and additional needs and their families.

Finally the report recommends that the Children’s Centres Outcomes Framework includes specific targets for children with disability and additional needs and their families, and any evaluation of the Children’s Centres includes an analysis of the outcomes for children with disability and additional needs and their families as a specific cohort.

A written report was provided to the Minister in December 2012.

Project Group Membership

CHAIRPERSON

Heather Ward Ministerial Advisory Committee: Students with Disabilities,
Department for Education and Child Development,
Early Years representative (2011)
Department for Education and Child Development,
Acting Manager Children's Centres Project

MEMBERS

Kerry Bissaker Ministerial Advisory Committee: Students with Disabilities,
Minister's Nominee

Louise Davies Autism SA, *Executive Manager, Service Development*

Cathie Home Ministerial Advisory Committee: Students with Disabilities,
(up to June 2012) *Early Childhood Australia (SA Branch) representative*

Helen Connolly Ministerial Advisory Committee: Students with Disabilities,
(from September 2012) *Early Childhood Australia (SA Branch) representative*

Zarinah Jaafar Department for Communities and Social Inclusion
(proxy Rochelle Hay) Community and Home Support: Disability Services
Program Manager Children's Services
or

Julie O' Leary Department for Communities and Social Inclusion
(proxy Kath Vannan) Community and Home Support: Disability Services
Clinical Lead, Social Work

Helen Kowalenko Ministerial Advisory Committee: Students with Disabilities,
Department for Education and Child Development,
Early Years representative (2012)

Lynette Rule Novita Children's Services,
Acting Service Area Manager Early Childhood Service

Secretariat Staff

Christel Butcher Executive Officer (2011)

Jo Shearer Executive Officer (2012), Project and Policy Officer (2011)

Skye Yuill Project and Policy Officer (2012)

Equipment for Children and Students with Disability

The Committee continued work on the equipment project, which had begun in 2011, to investigate equipment provisions for children and students with disability in South Australia. The Committee was aware that several agencies provide equipment but that the processes for acquiring equipment to support children's access to and participation in care and education services were not always clear for families. The aim of this project was to identify areas of improvement in the equipment provision processes for children and students with disability.

The project group collected information through face to face interviews with personnel responsible for managing equipment schemes. It was found that a complex system existed. Efficiencies and collaboration between services had developed in recent years, particularly in the areas of communication, mobility and personal care equipment provision for children with physical disability. A report was presented to the Minister for Education and Child Development in November 2012. The report included recommendations for further work to improve equipment provision processes for children and students with disability in South Australian care and education services and to develop a brochure to disseminate information on the processes for acquiring equipment (see Section 5, Future activities: Projects for 2013).

Project Group Membership 2012

CHAIRPERSON

Margaret Wallace Ministerial Advisory Committee: Students with Disabilities
Chairperson

MEMBERS

Gabby Aschberger Ministerial Advisory Committee: Students with Disabilities
Association of Independent Schools of SA
Special Education Coordinator

Susan Bostock Novita Children's Services
Service Area Manager Equipment Service and Acquired Brain Injury

Stephanie Grant Ministerial Advisory Committee: Students with Disabilities
Catholic Education SA
Senior Education Adviser – Special Education

Jan Kenney Department for Education and Child Development
Special Education Resource Unit (SERU)
Manager

Linda Turpin Inclusive Directions
Regional Manager, North

Kath Vannan Department for Communities and Social Inclusion
Community and Home Support: Disability Services
Program Manager, Children's Services

Secretariat Staff

Jo Shearer Executive Officer

Miriam Parsons Project and Policy Officer

Child Protection Resource for Parents and Carers of Children with Disability

In 2012 MAC: SWD worked with families of children with disability and Families SA to produce the booklet, *A guide to protecting children and young people with disability and preventing sexual abuse*. This booklet together with the Families SA booklet, *Protecting children and young people: A booklet for parents and carers* (2nd edition) was distributed with an accompanying letter from the former Minister for Education and Child Development, the Hon Grace Portolesi MP and the former Minister for Communities and Social Inclusion, the Hon Ian Hunter MP to families of children with disability, child care providers, preschools and schools, as well as other disability, health and education services at the end of September 2012.

The booklets were well received and recipients commented that they were a much needed resource. They were made available in PDF format at the Families SA and MAC: SWD websites, www.families.sa.gov.au/pages/protectingchildren/ and www.macswd.sa.gov.au.

The demand for additional copies was recorded and in November 2012 the Minister approved a second print run, scheduled for 2013 (see Section 5, Future activities: Projects for 2013).

Project Group Membership 2012

CHAIRPERSON

Margaret Wallace Ministerial Advisory Committee: Students with Disabilities
Chairperson

MEMBERS

Four parents of children with disability

Secretariat Staff

Christel Butcher Executive Officer (2011)
Jo Shearer Executive Officer (2012), Project and Policy Officer (2011)
Skye Yuill Project and Policy Officer (2012)

KidsMatter Early Childhood for Children with Disability

KidsMatter Early Childhood (KMEC) is the Australian national early childhood mental health promotion, prevention and early intervention initiative specifically developed for early childhood services. It was developed in collaboration with *beyondblue*, the Australian Psychological Society and Early Childhood Australia, with funding from the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing and *beyondblue*. The initiative was trialled in 111 long day care services and preschools during 2010 and 2011, of which 16 were in South Australia.

In January 2011 Dr Katherine Dix, Project Manager for the national evaluations of KidsMatter Primary and KidsMatter Early Childhood, agreed to work in partnership with MAC: SWD to evaluate the effectiveness of the KMEC initiative for South Australian children with disability and their families in the early years. The purpose of the project was to find out how children with disability in South Australian childcare settings and preschools benefitted from KMEC.

Preliminary findings showed that only a small cohort of South Australian children with disability participated in the evaluation and the number was too few for quantitative data analysis to be valid. It was recommended to the Minister that the project be discontinued as a result of this finding but that she consider an analysis being undertaken at the national level where there would be sufficient data to conduct statistically valid analysis. The Minister approved the national study in December 2012 (see Section 5, Future activities: Projects for 2013).

Project Group Membership

KIDSMATTER EARLY CHILDHOOD EVALUATION TEAM

Katherine Dix Flinders University and Principals Australia
Evaluation Manager

Secretariat Staff

Jo Shearer Executive Officer (from Feb 2012)
Skye Yuill Project and Policy Officer

4 | Other information

Committee Leadership and Secretariat Staffing

There were no changes in the Committee's leadership during 2012. Ms Margaret Wallace continued as Chairperson, with Dr Mary Bambacas as Deputy Chairperson.

Ms Christel Butcher (Executive Officer) retired in January 2012 and was replaced by Ms Jo Shearer (0.8 FTE).

Ms Miriam Parsons (Project and Policy Officer) returned from leave in January 2012 (0.5 FTE).

Mr Skye Yuill continued as Project and Policy Officer and increased his employment to full time to replace Ms Jo Shearer.

Ms Vicki Castle, who was employed full time as an Administration Officer for the Office of Non-Government Schools and Services, was allocated to the MAC: SWD secretariat two days per week (0.4 FTE).

Ms Maria DeFazio continued as Administration Officer (0.6 FTE).

Presentations at Conferences

In May 2012 the Executive Officer, Jo Shearer, gave a presentation to the National Disability Services Sub Committee: Children Young People and their Families on the Ministerial Advisory Committee: Students with Disabilities' funding processes and recent research.

In November 2012 the Executive Officer, Jo Shearer, was keynote speaker at the Research in Special Education (RISE) Conference hosted by Flinders University. An article on the work of the committee has been published in the RISE Newsletter in June 2012.

5 | Future activities

Projects for 2013

The Minister approved the following projects to be undertaken in 2013.

Equipment for Children and Students with Disability

Three areas of development were identified in the recommendations of the 2012 *Equipment for Children and Students with disability* project, which would further enhance equipment provisions for children and students with disability attending South Australian care and education settings. These were that:

- (1) A brochure containing a 'flow chart' to describe equipment provision processes be produced as a resource for families and care and education professionals. This would be similar to the Transition Guidelines brochure produced by MAC: SWD in 2009. It will be printed in hard copy format for physical distribution and available in electronic format at the MAC: SWD website.
- (2) A strategic plan be formalised across the South Australian care and education sectors to align services and equipment processes. This will likely require adjustments to current guidelines and practices to maximise the use of available equipment for children and students with disability across the state.
- (3) The Child Health Education Service (chess) integrates equipment requirements into the planning documents used by the care and education services for children and students with disability.

The Ministerial Advisory Committee: Students with Disabilities will take the lead role in coordinating these initiatives and, in collaboration with representatives from care, education and disability services, encourage service developments across the sectors.

Support for Children and Students with Disability Information Resource

In 2006 the Committee published a resource folder for families, educators and care providers, which provided an overview of support services for children and students with disability across the education, health and disability sectors. This resource was distributed to all care services, preschools and schools in South Australia.

In 2011 the Committee began updating the Information Resource but it soon became evident with widespread changes across the care, education, health and disability sectors that print based resources outdate quickly. The common medium for distribution of information had progressed to become internet based as opposed to print. It was deemed more useful to re-produce the Information Resource in electronic format with hyperlinks to other websites which have the most current information regarding their services.

An electronic update of the Appendices section of the Information Resource was completed by the end of 2012. In 2013 the remaining sections will be updated and reproduced in electronic format. It is intended that the completed resource will be published on the Ministerial Advisory Committee: Students with Disabilities website over the course of the year with quarterly updates.

Funding for Disability Services

The Ministerial Advisory Committee: Students with Disabilities (MAC: SWD) allocates funding to government and non-government services to support the early childhood development of children with disability through intervention programs, their access to care and access to education services. The current funding allocation model has been in use since 2011. The model was designed to encourage more direct services and outreach services to rural and remote areas. A corpus of data is now available to evaluate the effect of this new model on service provisions.

In addition, during 2013 the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) will be launched in South Australia and Australian Government funding to schools for students with disability is likely to change (as a result of the Gonski review). In this context, MAC: SWD will enquire with service providers about their funding sources and service guidelines. The Committee will provide advice to the Office of Non-Government Schools and Services (ONGSS) and the Minister on the design of the NDIS and its likely impact on funding allocated by MAC: SWD, on behalf of the Minister, to disability services providing Early Years Intervention and School Support programs. Implementation of the NDIS in South Australia is overseen by the Minister for Communities and Social Inclusion, the Hon Tony Piccolo MP, and guided by the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion. MAC: SWD will convene a group of informed colleagues from government and non-government agencies to assist with this inquiry.

KidsMatter Early Childhood (KMEC) for Children with Disability

In 2012 preliminary analysis of KidsMatter Early Childhood (KMEC) data relating to children with disability indicated that the cohort of South Australian children was too small for quantitative data analysis to be valid. However, the national cohort of children with disability who participated in the KMEC initiative is large enough for further analysis to produce valid findings. The Committee will approach the KMEC partners (beyondblue, the Australian Psychological Society, Early Childhood Australia and the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing) to undertake an Australia-wide analysis of the KMEC data, to determine the effect of this initiative for children with disability as a specific cohort. South Australian data would therefore be valid as a subset of this larger study.

Child Protection for Children with Disability

In 2012 the Ministerial Advisory Committee: Students with Disabilities worked with families of children with disability and Families SA to produce the booklet *A guide to protecting children and young people with disability and preventing sexual abuse*. A total of 6500 copies of this booklet were distributed across early childhood settings, preschools, schools, family and disability service organisations and other relevant organisations.

The demand for additional copies was great and in November 2012 the Minister approved the second print run so that all families of children with disability in South Australia could receive a copy. The Ministerial Advisory Committee: Students with Disabilities will work with education sector representatives to ensure these additional booklets are distributed to families of children with disability during the 2013 school year. The Committee also intends to keep watch on developments in Child Protection for children with disability.

