

## **SURVEY RESULTS: EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY IN AUSTRALIA**

Children and Young People with Disability Australia (CYDA) conducts a national survey each year on the educational experiences of students with disability in Australia. It focuses on the direct experience of students with disability. The most recent survey results again highlight that the present education system is failing to adequately meet the needs of students with disability.

The media has recently reported on the results of CYDA's Education Survey 2017. You can view that coverage at <https://goo.gl/18uXsf> and <https://goo.gl/Q9fyoj>. The survey summary provides an overview of the responses received. The summary can be viewed at <http://www.cyda.org.au/education-survey-results-2017>. There were 766 respondents nationally with representation from all states and territories.

Access to a quality and inclusive education for students with disability is a priority area for CYDA. CYDA is deeply concerned that children and young people with disability continue to experience significant disadvantage and exclusion at school.

The survey revealed that an alarming fifty-six percent of students with disability had experienced bullying in the previous 12 months. That is more than twice the rate of bullying estimated to occur in the general population of school-aged children.

The inequity experienced by students with disability has been highlighted in numerous national, state and territory inquiries. The final report of the national 2015 Senate Inquiry into Current Levels of Access and Attainment for Students with Disability in the school system, stated that:

*The Committee received overwhelming evidence regarding the many barriers faced by students with disability and their families. Access to education is a basic human right, but for many students with disability in Australia, it is a right which they are prevented from accessing.*

Unfortunately, the results of the 2017 survey confirm that not much has changed.

Access to an inclusive education is a human right for every Australian child. Students with disability frequently experience discrimination, including denial of enrolment, imposed part-time attendance and exclusion. The growing incidence of restraint and seclusion is also extremely concerning.

Schools often lack the required expertise in developing educational programs for students with disability. It is therefore vital that Australian governments invest appropriately in the education of students with disability and broader areas of reform so that students with disability are afforded their educational rights. Denial of a quality education causes great harm and negatively impacts on life opportunities for the children concerned. The latest national CYDA education survey unequivocally confirms the critical and urgent need for educational reform for students with disability.

## **SNAPSHOT OF SURVEY RESULTS:**

56% of respondents reported bullying at school in the last year

38% of students with disability have been excluded from events or activities at school in the last year

19% of students have experienced restraint and 21% have experienced seclusion at school in the last year

79% of respondents had not heard of the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) for students with disability and only 19% reported that they or their child was included in the data collection

CYDA will continue to work to highlight the issues of importance to children and young people with disability and celebrate the successes. Thank you to those who contributed to the survey. We will be conducting the education Survey 2018 later in the year and publishing those results next year.

Please contact CYDA if you wish to discuss any issues regarding education or the survey.

## **CONTACT**

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