

PORTFOLIO REPORT – STATE COUNCIL

Special/Specific Needs Report

Kym Burns – Portfolio Holder, March 2020

Special Education, as always, continues to remain of great interest to ICPA.

In June at the Liebe Field Day Professor Lyn Beazley spoke about a program called “Coderdogo”.
<http://coderdojowa.org.au/>

Professor Beazley was promoting this for use within WA schools, especially as a tool for autism. Dojo provides a fun, free and social learning environment where young people can meet others with similar interests. It is not a class or workshop, there is no curriculum. Instead, Dojo offers open, free and unstructured club settings in which young people can follow their own interests and develop self-directed learning habits with the support of mentors.

2019 saw no changes from the Student-Centred Funding Model (SCFM) in regard to funding towards English as a second language (EAL) . This has been a concern as it was felt a clearer understanding of who was eligible was required.

In 2020 the department will be implementing changes in funding for the EAL allocations. The savings created by the changes will be reinvested to enhance the scope of EAL funding to include:

- Pre-primary students
- Aboriginal students whose first/home language or dialect is not standard Australian English
- An additional year’s support to the current settings for all students yet to demonstrate proficiency.

The start of 2020 sees the Special Education Funding Rates available for viewing on the Department of Education website, <https://www.education.wa.edu.au/>

Also available now is the 2020 updated guidelines for the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability. NCCD.

By continuing to update this information the Australian Government will use this information to repair inconsistencies from previous arrangements across the states and territories.

What is hoped to be achieved is a 5.1 per cent growth each year for the student with Disability up until 2029.

NAPLAN online testing remained a concern in 2019, especially where it concerned a student with disability.

It is stressed by the Education Department that adjustments can be made to each individual student with a disability to encourage maximum participation. Updated information is available on the Education Department website to schools, students and their parents/guardians.