KEY ISSUE 3
Ongoing collaboration to meet the needs of students with disability

The number of students with disability attending Catholic schools in Queensland increased by 92% between 2008 and 2013.

Data collected under the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) program in 2013 suggests that the real picture of numbers of students with disability and/or requiring adjustments to meet their learning needs, is much higher, with three times more students identified through the NCCD than in the 2013 Federal Census.

This suggests that most teachers in Catholic schools have a number of students in their classes for whom educational adjustments and support are required.

It is also important to note that some regions across the state are better placed to support students with disability due to established community/organisation structures. In particular, rural and remote areas regularly face the difficult task of accessing specialists for consultations and assessments.

The Catholic sector is seeking:

• ongoing cross-sectoral collaboration led by the Queensland Government to address the ‘on the ground’ needs of students with disability

• strategic planning with all levels of government to develop consistent definitions, and provide appropriate and co-ordinated resourcing to offer the best opportunities for this growing group of students.