



Legislative Council  
Standing Committee on Social Issues

**DEDICATED TRANSITION SUPPORT REQUIRED FOR  
STUDENTS WITH ADDITIONAL OR COMPLEX NEEDS**

**Inquiry report released today**

There should be a dedicated section within the NSW Department of Education and Communities (DEC) to provide support and case management services to students with additional or complex needs during educational transitions, according to a report released by the Standing Committee on Social Issues today.

Committee Chair, the Hon Niall Blair MLC, said: “Positive transitions play a key role in the educational outcomes of students, and can lead to better employment opportunities and a more meaningful community life for young people with additional or complex needs.”

“Unfortunately however the transition support service system in New South Wales is fragmented and complex, with information about transition support difficult to find and hard to understand. Many families are not even aware that transition support or services even exist, and those that are aware struggle to navigate their way around such a disjointed system.”

Mr Blair noted that while there is some guidance available to families through case managers and transition support staff, this support is only available for limited periods of time and is not available to everyone. He said that the same issue applies to support services for students with additional or complex needs in general, many of which are withdrawn at key transition points. Mr Blair added: “The lack of continuity in care is exacerbated by the fact that there is no single agency responsible for transition planning and support, and is a major issue for students and their families.”

“Another significant issue is that there are inadequacies with the transfer of information about the strengths and needs of individual students with additional or complex needs between education and service providers. As a result, families are having to re-tell their stories every time they go through a transition or apply for a new service.”

The Committee’s report makes 24 recommendations to address these issues. Mr Blair said: “In addition to a dedicated section within DEC to provide ongoing, flexible transition support and case management services to all students with additional or complex needs and their families, there are also recommendations to improve access to information about transition support, assist with the transfer of information about individual students and address enrolment issues. The Committee has also recommended that legislation be introduced to mandate transition planning for students with additional or complex needs.”

*For further comment please contact the Hon Niall Blair MLC*

*Committee Chair, on (02) 9230 2467*

**6 March 2012**

“We believe that in the long run, investing in transition planning will lead to reduced costs on governments through having more educated and employable people in the community.”

Mr Blair encouraged schools in the Catholic and independent sectors to also adopt the best practice recommendations regarding transition planning and support made throughout the report.

Copies of the report can be downloaded from [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/socialissues](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/socialissues) or are available from the Committee Secretariat by calling (02) 9230 3311.

*For further comment please contact the Hon Niall Blair MLC*

*Committee Chair, on (02) 9230 2467*