



Inquiry into children and young people with disability in New South Wales educational settings

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. That Portfolio Committee No. 3 – Education inquire into and report on current levels of access and attainment for children and young people with disability in New South Wales educational settings, and in particular:
 - (a) the experiences of children and young people within educational settings and measures to better support students with disability
 - (b) the barriers to safe, quality and inclusive education for children with disability in schools, early childhood education services and other educational settings
 - (c) the specific needs of children and young people with disability in regional, rural and remote schools, early childhood education services and other educational settings
 - (d) the impact on children and young people with disability and their families associated with inadequate levels of support
 - (e) the benefits for all children and young people if students with disability are provided with adequate levels of support
 - (f) the social, economic and personal benefits of improving outcomes for students with disability at school and in further education and employment
 - (g) the experiences of teachers, early childhood educators, learning support staff and others with a role in educating children with disability and measures to adequately resource and empower those educators
 - (h) the resourcing available to educational settings and educators, including infrastructure, to support the needs of children and young people with disability in New South Wales
 - (i) the measures necessary to ensure the learning environment is safe and inclusive for all students, teachers and school support staff
 - (j) the impact of policies regarding suspensions and expulsions
 - (k) the impact of policies regarding the use of restrictive practices
 - (l) the effectiveness and availability of early intervention programs

- (m) whether existing regulatory and oversight mechanisms are sufficient to protect and promote the rights of children and young people with disability, and protect those children and young people from abuse, neglect and exploitation
 - (n) whether children and young people with disability should be included under the remit of the Ageing and Disability Commissioner
 - (o) developments since the 2017 Upper House inquiry into education of students with disability or special needs in New South Wales
 - (p) measures to implement the Disability Royal Commission's recommendations in relation to inclusive education
 - (q) any other related matters.
2. That the committee report by 8 August 2024.¹

The terms of reference for the inquiry were self-referred by the committee on 6 December 2023.²

Committee membership

Ms Abigail Boyd MLC	The Greens	<i>Chair</i>
Hon Mark Buttigieg MLC	Australian Labor Party	
Hon Anthony D'Adam MLC	Australian Labor Party	
Hon Natasha Maclaren-Jones MLC*	Liberal Party	
Hon Tania Mihailuk MLC	Pauline Hanson's One Nation Party	
Hon Sarah Mitchell MLC	The Nationals	
Hon Emily Suvaal MLC	Australian Labor Party	

* The Hon Natasha Maclaren-Jones MLC substituted for the Hon Rachel Merton MLC from 6 December 2023 for the duration of the inquiry.

¹ The original reporting date was 30 May 2024 (*Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 6 February 2024, pp 859-860). The reporting date was later extended to 17 June 2024 (*Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 7 May 2024, p 1077), then to 8 August 2024 (*Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 15 May 2024, p 1143).

² *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 6 February 2024, pp 859-860.