

Ms Allison Stowe
Senior Council Officer
Upper House Committees
Legislative Council
Parliament of New South Wales

Dear Ms Stowe,

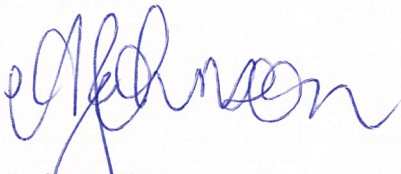
Inquiry into the education of students with disability or special needs in NSW schools

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before Portfolio Committee No. 3—Education on 23 June.

As requested, please find attached our response to the question taken on notice during the hearing.

If you have any further questions about the response or any other related matters, please contact Kelly Tallon on (02) 9248 0993 or at kelly.tallon@acyp.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Johnson
Advocate for Children and Young People
27 July 2017

Question:

Are there any initiatives on a smaller scale in individual schools that you have seen that work really well [to promote respect for and participation of students with disability] and should be taken elsewhere? Could you give us some more details about that on notice—examples that work well, apart from Coonamble—so that we can maybe look to that?

Response:

ACYP has produced several video case studies highlighting best practice initiatives for the inclusion of children and young people in decision-making both inside and outside of schools. One of these is the Coonamble High School program raised at the hearing. The others are:

- **Touched by Olivia Foundation's** inclusion of the voices of children and young people in the development of inclusive play spaces;
- **Uniting Care Burnside's** incorporation of the voices of some of the youngest members of their community in everyday practices and processes at their childcare centre; and
- **YMCA's** Youth Parliament Program, which allows young people from all parts of the state to participate in an annual program that emulates NSW Parliament.

These video case studies can be found at: <http://www.acyp.nsw.gov.au/participation>.

ACYP is also working on a number of projects that could be implemented in schools and other settings to promote respect for and participation of children and young people of all backgrounds, including:

- **Seen and Heard**, a video of real life examples, from the point of view of five different children and young people, showing how they feel when they are not listened to and how the simple act of listening has real and long-lasting effects. The video is available at: <http://www.acyp.nsw.gov.au/seen-and-heard>.
- **Ideation 2017**, a joint initiative with Multicultural NSW which brought together more than 100 children and young people from across the state during Youth Week to share their views on how to improve inclusion in NSW. More information about Ideation is forthcoming and will be available at: <http://www.youthweek.nsw.gov.au/ideation-2017>
- **Real NSW**, a photo competition for children and young people to show how they really see themselves, in response to the widespread sentiment that the images used to depict children and young people are stereotypical and not representative of their real lives. The winning photos are available at: <http://www.acyp.nsw.gov.au/real-nsw-results>. All entries are available at: <http://www.acyp.nsw.gov.au/real-nsw-view>.
- **The ACYP App**, an augmented reality application that brings the voices of children and young people into any room. A video of how the app works can be viewed at: <http://www.acyp.nsw.gov.au/app>.

- **Speak for Yourself**, a participation charter which outlines the key principles for meaningful participation of children and young people, as agreed upon by a diverse group of children and young people involved in youth advisory groups or decision-making in organisations across NSW. The participation charter is available at:
<http://www.acyp.nsw.gov.au/participation-charter>.
- **Top tips for children and young people's participation**, a guide, summary sheet and video outlining ACYP's recommendations on participation are available at:
<http://www.acyp.nsw.gov.au/participation-resources>. We are currently working on a guide specifically tailored to promote inclusion of children and young people with disability.

ACYP will continue to work with the Department of Education and the non-government school sector to develop methodologies for student engagement and to ensure that children and young people have an opportunity to influence their schools' policy and decision-making.