

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

### Response to Supplementary Questions

#### Question

1. Of the complaints received by the NSW Ombudsman in relation to NSW educational settings, how many were concerning SSPs, for each year from 2017?
  - a. How many of these were regarding suspensions?
  - b. How many of these were regarding expulsions?
  - c. How many of these were regarding gatekeeping?
  - d. How many of these were regarding schools refusing to implement reasonable adjustments?
  - e. How many of these were regarding conduct of school staff?
  - f. How many of these were regarding the NSW DoE?

#### Answer

Our current complaint management system (CMS) does not distinguish between SSPs and mainstream schools. To respond to this question, we manually searched our CMS for complaints relating to the list of SSPs in Table 2. We identified a total of 52 complaints relevant to the committee's question and report the results below in Table 1. The following is noted about Table 1:

- On some occasions, we received more than one complaint in relation to the same student over the timespan of the data requested.
- The total of all issues recorded is not the same as the total number of complaints. This is because some individual complaints raised several of the issues the committee asked us to identify (and some raised none of the issues).
- The 'gatekeeping' complaints include complaints about students being prevented or discouraged from applying to or enrolling in their school of choice.<sup>1</sup>

**Table 1 – Complaints received about SSPs between 2017 and 2024 (YTD)**

Issue	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 (YTD)	Total
1.a. Suspensions	4	5	1	1	1	0	0	0	12
1.b. Expulsions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1

<sup>1</sup> We adapted the definition of gatekeeping used in the final report of the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability

1.c. Gatekeeping	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	4
1.d. Refusal to implement reasonable adjustments	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
1.e. Conduct of school staff	16	10	4	3	3	2	2	5	45
1.f. Regarding the NSW DoE	4	6	2	0	0	0	0	1	13

**Table 2 – SSPs in NSW**

This table lists all SSPs categorised as a ‘disability’ school by the NSW Department of Education. It does not include hospital or youth justice SSPs.

School Name	
Ajuga School	Les Powell School
Anson Street School	Lomandra School
Arndell School	Lucas Gardens School
Arranounbai School	Mainsbridge School
Barwon Learning Centre	Mary Brooksbank School
Bates Drive School	Mian School
Beverley Park School	Minerva School
Bridge Road School	Naremburn School
Broderick Gillawarna School	Newcastle Junior School
Budawang School	Newcastle Middle School
Bullimbal School	Newcastle Senior School
Cairnsfoot School	Niland School
Caldera School	North Gosford Learning Centre
Campbell House School	Palm Avenue School
Canterbury Vale School	Para Meadows School
Carenne School	Parry School
Carinya School	Passfield Park School
Caroline Chisholm School	Penrith Valley Learning Centre
Casuarina School	Peterborough School
Centennial Park School	Plumpton House School
Chalmers Road School	Redbank School
Clarke Road School	Rivendell School
Coffs Harbour Learning Centre	Rowland Hassall School
Cook School	Royal Far West School
Coreen School	Sir Eric Woodward Memorial School
Cromehurst School	Snowy Valleys School
Edgeware School	South Creek School

Fernhill School	St George School
Fisher Road School	Stewart House School
Five Islands School	Tallowood School
Fowler Road School	Tangara School
G S Kidd Memorial School	The Beach School
George Bass School	The Bidgee School
Glenfield Park School	The Crescent School
Glenvale School	The Hills School
Gralee School	The Ponds School
Halinda School	Tirriwirri School
Havenlee School	Verona School
Highlands School	Wairoa School
Holman Place School	Wakefield School
Holroyd School	Wangee Park School
HopeTown School	Wewak Street School
Hunter River Community School	Willans Hill School
Kalinda School	William Rose School
Kandeer School	Wilson Park School
Karningul School	Woniora Road School
Karonga School	Woodberry Learning Centre
Kotara School	Yandelora School
Kurrambee School	Yawarra Community School
Lakeside School	Yudi Gunyi School
Lawrence Hargrave School	