



**Legislative Council  
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2**

**REPORT TABLED  
Inquiry into the provision of education to students with a  
disability or special needs**

The Chair of the NSW Parliament’s General Purpose Standing Committee No 2, the Hon Robyn Parker MLC, released a report on the provision of education to students with a disability or special needs. The report identifies significant inadequacies in the NSW education system for students with disabilities and special needs.

Ms Parker commented: “This Inquiry received more than 700 submissions and heard evidence from over 70 witnesses. We are extremely grateful to the parents, teachers, advocacy organisations and academics for their valuable contribution to shaping our report and its recommendations.”

“We have listened to the concerns of parents of children with disabilities and special needs and acknowledge that many parents need to constantly advocate for the right of their child to receive the same educational opportunities as other children. We call on the NSW Government to take immediate action to ensure all students have equal access to the education system” Ms Parker said.

“We heard that one of the major barriers to the effective inclusion of students with disabilities and special needs in the education system is the lack of appropriate funding in both the government and non-government sectors. We have recommended that the NSW Government substantially increase funding for these students in its schools” Ms Parker said.

Ms Parker stated: “The current efforts of principals, teachers and support staff to promote an inclusive learning environment for students with disabilities and special needs is commended by the Committee. However, we recognise that school communities would benefit from additional support and guidance on how to effectively maximise the use of available resources to assist students with disabilities and special needs. Many of our recommendations are designed to improve decision making at this level, particularly in relation to the role of the School Learning Support Team.”

“Scores of teachers told us that they do not receive adequate support to cater for the learning needs of the 15,000 students with disabilities and 50,000 students with special needs enrolled in mainstream classes. Several of our recommendations are therefore designed to increase the resources available to assist teachers in mainstream classes to address the learning requirements of all of their students” Ms Parker commented.

“Our report makes over 30 recommendations that seek to improve the education of students with disabilities or special needs in NSW schools, including, improving the assessment process for individual disability funding, increasing access to professional support, enhancing teacher training and addressing the unmet demand for special education places” said Ms Parker.

Copies of the report can be downloaded from [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/gpsc2](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/gpsc2) or are available from the Committee Secretariat by calling (02) 9230 3509.

*For further comment please contact the Hon Robyn Parker MLC, Committee Chair, on  
(02) 9230 3332 or 0427 015 049*