

6th April 2010

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

Questions on Notice

1. Perceptions of the increase in access to preschool that has occurred.

We can only comment on our experiences with having a preschool attached to our primary school. We feel that we are very fortunate to have a preschool at our school and believe that it is a strong need to have preschools attached to all public schools. This would greatly assist with detection and early identification of special needs and disabilities.

2. Kindergarten Classes- What sort of structures do you think would be preferable to allow 20 students to get equitable service?

It is not about changing the structure of Kindergarten classes but about assessing individual children on their functioning level within the classroom. It is about providing adequate resources so that children with disabilities or special needs are able to effectively access the curriculum. Resources should include teacher aide support time and access to other services such as speech therapy and occupational therapy. This is not just about kindergarten classes but about every class.

3. I do not understand why Kalani had funding one minute and not the next. Did he have a miraculous improvement?

In 2009, Kalani received 48 minutes of aide time per day due to his diagnosed Oppositional Defiance Disorder. Kalani has never received funding support for his severe language disorder. Kalani's classroom behaviour improved slightly by the end of 2009 and so his funding for oppositional defiance disorder was withdrawn. Kalani still does not receive any funding for his language disorder. Subsequently, in 2010 Kalani receives no disabilities funding.

Yours sincerely

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