

**INQUIRY INTO THE PROVISION OF EDUCATION TO
STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY OR SPECIAL NEEDS**

Name: Name Suppressed
Date received: 18/01/2010

Partially Confidential

Dear Sir/Maam

I would like to suggest that students aide funding is linked to the student regardless of which school system they attend school in. Our family has been through the heart wrenching experience of sending 6 of our 7 children to a private christian college and our other child to our local public school as she has Down Syndrome. Our daughter required a full time aide and could not get funding for this in the private system , and we could not afford to pay for her aide ourselves in the private system. Many families at our school are struggling to pay for aide funding themselves so that their children can get a private education. The school cannot be expected to carry the burden of providing aid funding to these children alone, but parents cannot be expected to pay for it either. Because of this our daughter was denied access to our other children's school for 6 years. This has broken our heart and made the practicalities of daily life difficult having young children at 2 schools, one of whom cannot wait in the playground by them self. While aide funding continues to be denied to children in the private system there will be no true choice of education for these children. My daughters education in the public system was well below the standard she is now receiving in the private system. she did more work in the first term at then she did in all the previous years at her local school. She did not even have an appropriate curriculum for many years and spent hours sitting at the back of the classroom while her aide helped other children and did administrative work for the school. By moving to the private system we have saved the government a fortune some of this money should have been transfered with her into her new school. It is very clear discrimination against children with disabilities to only fund their aide time in the public system. Public schools are overloaded and the government would save money and take the pressure off public schools by allowing aide funding to transfer with the child into the private system. I have already met with Jodie Mac Kay, Sharon Grierson, and John Della Bosca about this matter.

Yours Faithfully,