

Submission  
No 246

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

**Name:** Ms Ann Fenton

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Special education classes require specialist teachers, support staff and specific government funding. At the moment at our school we have outstanding teachers and support staff and funding that comes to us for each of these students with disabilities or special needs. WE ARE IN DANGER OF HAVING THIS SYSTEM REPLACED BY ONE THAT SIMPLY WILL NOT WORK FOR OUR SCHOOL.

Under the new proposed system, the Dept of Educ will place "generalist" support teachers in schools according to the prevalence of the disabilities/special needs of the DISTRICT. These people will be expected to work with students with a wide-range of disabilities and needs.

Funding on an individual "needs basis" as we have now is ESSENTIAL for our school. It needs to be "diagnosis-based funding" NOT "prevalence-based funding".

Currently DHS staff work on a one-to-one basis. This will be no longer be possible and general consultative support, instead of specifically skilled staff will be all that is available. Further if the special needs teacher is not working out or appropriate the Principal does not have the power to replace them.

This unacceptable and untenable scheme is currently the subject of a parliamentary inquiry.

Please do not change the current method of funding special needs education.

Ann Fenton

DHSVAD.