

Submission  
No 159

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

**Name:** Mr Ray Cox

**Date received:** 18/02/2010

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Director.  
General Purpose Standing Committee Number 2.  
Parliament House.  
Macquarie Street.  
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Sir,

Re; Urgent Funding for Administrative & Support Staff Needs  
for Public Schools.

Thank you for this opportunity to convey my support and appreciation to the many teachers and tutors that have assisted me in my lifetime.

For various reasons I was a failure as a student at school and poorly equipped to face the challenges ahead of me. Reflecting on those times, if support and guidance was at school it would have made a huge difference. I acknowledge that.

Briefly, after five years of war service, I spent much of my life attending TAFE, refresher courses and requirements preparatory to advancement in my field. A waste of effort and time that could have been avoided by early identification of my needs.

Reports from the Best Start program highlight the disparities in ability of children commencing school. The consequences for students coming from disadvantaged backgrounds, might well mean they do not reach their potential scholastically but also socially. The provision for teacher aid, counseling and support teachers is funding well spent.

As a member of Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation (ANT&R) I am aware of the necessity for the extra needs in education for Indigenous Australians. Without doubt, Indigenous students would be amongst the most disadvantaged and therefore, deserving of extra and extensive educational assistance.

Correctly, teachers maintain the curriculum, however, when a student is unable to keep up and there is not assistance and guidance, one result will be anti social behaviour. There is a potential for far reaching consequences

Only adequate funding and policies will ensure all students receive the assistance essential for them at those crucial times. Both individual and society will benefit.

Yours Sincerely,

Ray Cox.



16.2.2010