

Submission
No 225

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

Name: Ms Jacqui Wemyss

Date received: 18/02/2010

NSW LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL INQUIRY INTO THE PROVISION OF EDUCATION TO STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY OR SPECIAL NEEDS

SUBMISSION

The Inquiry is requesting submissions from the public that address some or all of the following terms of reference. You are invited to detail your views, examples and recommendations for improvement in the spaces provided (*copy additional forms if more space is required*).

Please indicate if you would like your submission kept confidential.

NB: Not all terms of reference need be addressed.

1. The nature, level and adequacy of funding for the education of children with a disability.

Non Existent !!!! After you spend a few years jumping through hoops to get answers & diagnosis, the people in charge let you down by not even applying for funding! It's a disgrace and borders on Discrimination!

2. Best practice approaches in determining the allocation of funding to children with a disability, particularly whether allocation should be focused on a student's functioning capacity rather than their disability.

I totally agree that funding should be allocated on one's individual needs and not the broad spectrum disorder that they have been labelled with. There are varying degree's of disability/function in all disorders and children should have access to a wide range of teaching aides, structures etc

3. The level and adequacy of current special education places within the education system.

Don't know of any except special school's for those with severe disabilities

4. The adequacy of integrated support services for children with a disability in mainstream settings, such as school classrooms.

Unattainable in the current system

5. The provision of a suitable curriculum for intellectually disabled and conduct disordered students.

Does it even exist?

6. Student and family access to professional support and services, such as speech therapy, occupational therapy, physiotherapy and school counsellors.

I have had to go through speech therapy & Occupational therapy for 3 of my children (all autistic to varying degrees) and in the most recent case I have had to resort to private therapists to ensure assessments are done within 12 months! That's terrible!

7. The provision of adequate teaching training, both in terms of pre-service and ongoing professional training.

Our articular school has access to a school councillor 3 days a term, by the time you are seen (based on priority) and have them up to speed they are replaced, leave or go on maternity leave. There is no continuity.

8. Any other related matters.

As stated previously, I have 3 of my four boys with Aspergers (no doubt the fourth will have it too) and I have had to fight tooth and nail to obtain any information acceptable to the education department to get help for these children. The community based speech and OT is a complete waste of time (not their fault) due to a lack of therapists. My third child was diagnosed by a Child Psychologist and that was good enough for the government to allow personal funding but not the education department who wanted more. I only went to the Child Phycologist as the Child Psychiatrist in the Albury area left and had no replacement so I didn't have much choice. Now I have been told that a Paediatricians diagnosis is acceptable (not previously allowed) and I have to start all over again with this third child and now he is at school struggling with no help. That is just not good enough!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

By the way if having four boy's isn't enough I also run a business and am on the P & C. I just think it is ludicrous that there is no support for these kids from an early age and quite often they are halfway through primary school before anything is done, if at all.

Name: Jacqui Wemyss

(Please tick)

<input type="checkbox"/> Parent	<input type="checkbox"/> Teacher
<input type="checkbox"/> Principal	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____

If you are making a submission on behalf of an organisation, please indicate who has authorised it, for example, the executive committee, president or chairperson.

Organisation:

Authorised by:

Send your submission to:

The Director
General Purpose Standing
Committee No. 2
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Fax: (02) 9230 3416

Email: gpscno2@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Online: www.nswtf.org.au and click on
Special Education Inquiry