

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

Name: Name Suppressed

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Partially Confidential

## Legislative Council General Purpose Standing Committee No2

### Inquiry into the Provision of education to students with a disability or Special Needs

*Dear Hon Robyn Parker MLC,*

My submission focus is point 6. (*Student and family access to professional support and services such as speech therapy, occupational therapy, physiotherapy and school counsellors*) and specifically targets School Counselling services.

- Prof Tony Vinson in his review recommended a ratio of 1 S.C : 500 students

At present, the ratio is closer to 1 S.C.: 1000 students

**Is a ratio of 1 S.C. : 750 students a realistic goal for the short term?**

- Staff retention of School Counsellors is a mounting problem with competing opportunities for psychologists including private work for Medicare rebates.

**Can the workforce be enhanced by granting School Counsellor's an allowance to acknowledge their dual teaching and post graduate psychology qualifications?**

- The professional practice of school counselling delivered to students and families is highly dependent on the appropriate clinical supervision of the School Counsellor.

**Does the DET need to create a time allowance for those supervisors who undertake to train new School Counsellors in addition to their regular duties?**

- Ongoing training and development of School Counsellors is crucial in maintaining their professional support to students and families.

**Is there a need to review the decision to cut the School-Link phase training for School Counsellors and allied health professionals?**