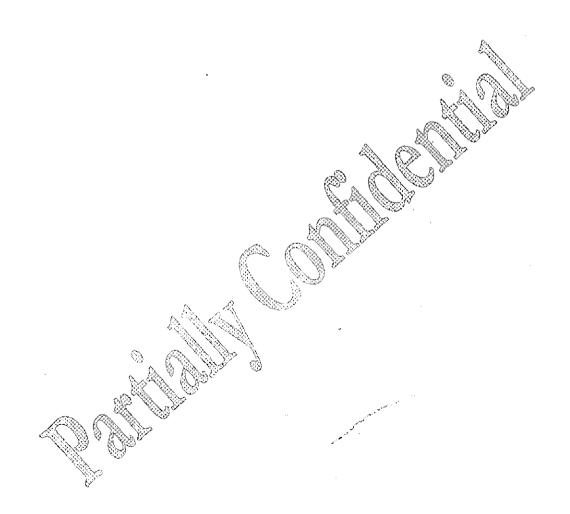
INQUIRY INTO THE PROVISION OF EDUCATION TO STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY OR SPECIAL NEEDS

Name:

Name Suppressed

Date received:

23/12/2009



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?