

Submission
No 256

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

Name: Mr Rae Desmond Jones and Ms Helen Hughes

Date received: 19/02/2010

Rae Desmond Jones & Helen Hughes

19 February 2010

The Director

NSW Department of Education.

Dear Director,

Re: Proposed changes to funding for Special Needs Students in Public Schools

We are the parents of two children who currently attend Public High Schools in New South Wales. One child attends Dulwich High School of VSAD, while the other attends Newtown High School of the Performing Arts. Neither of these children requires special needs, however, we are aware that there are a large number of students attending Dulwich High School of VAD who do require such assistance. Dulwich High School of VAD has been particularly efficient at assisting students with special needs, some of whom are artistically gifted or talented. Because of the complex mix of students, the school has been fortunate in being able to avail itself of a number of teachers and support staff with special training and empathetic gifts in this area. We understand that this could change, and not for the better.

If such teachers and support staff are allocated on the basis of numbers in a district, then the special needs teachers will be spread far too thinly. This will not greatly benefit schools without a high proportion of students with Aspergers syndrome or ADHD, and will seriously impact the balance in schools like Dulwich High School of VAD.

We therefore submit that such changes would be detrimental to students with special needs across the entirety of the Public School system. We do not object to change, however in our opinion the proposed allocation of special needs teachers on a district basis would be a retrograde step, and should not be implemented.

Yours Truly,

Rae Desmond Jones & Helen Hughes