

**Submission
No 75**

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

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An Inquiry into the provision of education to students with a disability is long overdue. As I believe the provision of education to these students is 2nd rate when compared to other students. Firstly you have specific schools or departments for students with disabilities and these are staffed according to a set formula & staffing can often be reduced even when 1 student leaves or transfers. Permanent staff are able to transfer.

Secondly some students are integrated into the general Public/High schools and are funded according to their disability with external federal funding.

Staffing in these integrated classes are treated different, I understand Teaching staff are permanent, however SASS staff are temporary despite some being employed for 15-20 years. Also there employment is not known from one year to the next and often not until school has resumed. Further depending on the school management can determine whether a person is employed the following year. There is NO standard employment procedures for the SLSO at integrated schools.

SLSO can be employed off the 'street', some may go through advertisement/interview. Existing staff have often their jobs thrown open each year, having to reapply

I would suggest visits to schools/departments for specific purposes for students with disabilities and classes that are integrated.

A student in an integrated class can have funding withdrawn, thus losing the SLSO support.