

**Submission  
No 8**

**INQUIRY INTO STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY OR  
SPECIAL NEEDS IN NEW SOUTH WALES SCHOOLS**

**Organisation:** Ms Jemma Burrows

**Date received:** 13 December 2016

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As public school teachers and NSW Teachers Federation members we continue to campaign for the right of every student to receive a public education of the highest quality and for all students to become successful learners.

We are committed to equity and excellence for every student and in doing so assert, as was confirmed in The Review of Funding for Schooling (Gonski Review) that it costs more to deliver on these values for students with disability.

We will not stand by the currently inadequate provision of education to students with disability and the lifelong implications this inequity has.

The National Education Reform Agreement (NERA) and Australian Education Act 2013, acknowledge the requirement for, and commitment to additional funds for students with disability. The NSW government's unwavering commitment to the Gonski funding model paves the way for this investment to be realised.

We stand ready to work with our employer and NSW government in delivering equitable quality education but can only do so effectively when equipped with the necessary tools and supported by a system that is responsive to need.

We offer the following submission as an index of unmet need and a call for equity for every student.

**A) Equitable access to resources for students with a disability or special needs in regional and metropolitan areas.**

Staff require more training in making learning materials accessible to those students with a disability/need to know who they can contact to seek help with this, etc.  
More info on Integration funding/how and who to report to for assessment

**B) The impact of the Government's 'Every Student Every School' policy on the provision of education to students with a disability or special needs in New South Wales public schools.**

Staff require more info on the courses available to them to offer support with making adjustments to their programs for students with disabilities.  
I feel teachers are not well enough informed about the Department's PLASST - further awareness and training required  
Not enough recognition and understanding of the rights of students with disability and the obligations of teachers/schools

**C) Developments since the 2010 inquiry by General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2 into the provision of education to students with a disability or special needs and the implementation of its recommendations.**

I support all 31 recommendations proposed by the 2010 inquiry (but don't feel they are being met adequately in our schools at this time)

**D) Complaint and review mechanisms within the school systems in New South Wales for parents and carers.**

No problems with this aspect in my experience

**E) Any other related matters.**

Training in the types of assistive technology used by students with disability to access the school curriculum/training in how to modify teaching programs to accommodate these technologies

Name Jemma Burrows

I am a Teacher