

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

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My child was diagnosed with Tourette syndrome by a paediatric neurologist when she was in Kindergarten in 2013. Despite our school being very accommodating in terms of understanding her needs, no specific in class help is available for Tourette's sufferers. My child suffers sensory processing issues and a paediatrician has suggested she is assessed by an occupational therapist in the classroom, however this is all to be arranged at our cost. As with most children with Tourette's she has a co-morbid diagnosis, in her case severe Generalised Anxiety Disorder. As it turns out this is recognised by the Education Department and we will now be able to apply for help for her utilising that diagnosis. It is absurd in 2017 when so much is known about Tourette's, stereotypes aside, that it is not treated with the same respect and recognition as Autism and mental health disorders. It is a neurological condition, it is real, and it greatly affects children's abilities to participate (in many differing ways) in a successful and fulfilling way in the classroom. This needs to change.