

**Submission
No 117**

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

Organisation: Centre for Children and Young People, Southern Cross
University

Date received: 22 February 2017

Committee of Inquiry into Students with disability or special needs in schools
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3
Legislative Council
NSW Parliament

22nd February 2017

Dear Committee members and Secretariat

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Inquiry.

I am an academic researcher, and have worked with children, young people and adults with disability for over 20 years. My recent research focuses on both prevention of abuse and building belonging and connection for children and young people with disability. I would like to emphasise to the Committee the connection between these two issues, and particularly to draw the attention of members to the high rates of abuse experienced by children with disability, in comparison to their peers (Llewellyn, Wayland & Hindmarsh, 2016).

To assist the Committee in inquiring into the *provision of education to students with a disability or special needs in government and non-government schools in New South Wales*, I would like to offer the following research papers:

- Robinson, S. & McGovern, D. (2014) *Safe at School? exploring safety and harm of students with cognitive disability in and around school*. Report of research conducted for the NSW Law and Justice Foundation. Attached, and refer also to <http://ccyp.scu.edu.au/index.php/129>
- Robinson, S. & Truscott, J. (2013) *Belonging and Connection of School Students with Disability*. Melbourne, Children with Disability Australia. Attached, and refer to <http://www.cda.org.au/cda-issue-papers>
- Robinson, S. (2015). *Feeling safe, being safe: what is important to children and young people with disability and high support needs about safety in institutional settings?* Lismore: Centre for Children and Young People. Research completed for the Royal Commission on Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. Attached, and refer to <http://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/policy-and-research/our-research/published-research/feeling-safe,-being-safe>

If I can support the work of the Committee, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email.

With best wishes for a successful inquiry.

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References

Llewellyn, G, Wayland, S, Hindmarsh, G (2016) Disability and child sexual abuse in institutional contexts, Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, Sydney.

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