

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

**Organisation:** Ms Angela Johnson

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I am a teacher at Cooma North Public School. We have 320 students from kindergarten to year 6. There are over 100 students on our learning and support caseload who have varying degrees of disability, learning difficulty and other special needs. These needs range from students with dyslexia to students with autism, to a student with a moderate intellectual disability and severe epilepsy. We currently receive government funding for 5 of these students, which is not enough to employ even 2 full-time School learning support officers (teacher's aides) to provide extra assistance. We also only have one learning and support teacher for 4 days a week and one school counsellor who only comes one day a week. With 13 full classes, the classroom teachers are unable to fully cater for all of the children's needs alone. More assistance is definitely needed in the form of more funding to employ at least 5 more School Learning and Support Officers, 2 more Learning Support Teachers and a full time School Counsellor.