

**Submission  
No 81**

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

**Organisation:** Ms Cat Black

**Date received:** 18 February 2017

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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.**

Regional areas are at a disadvantage for many reasons. It is why Gonski is so vital as the loadings provide recognition of this, and funding to ensure the disadvantage can be overcome.

**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.**

**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.**

Until the transition to the full Gonski needs based funding model is realised, all students are missing out. Students with the highest need (disability) are being severely punished as the Federal Government continues to deny the Students With Disability Loading. The data is there, provided by professionals under the NCCD. Minister Birmingham must act. Everyday he refuses to fund this loading he robs cohorts of students of the fundamental human right of the education they deserve.

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

**E) Any other related matters.**

The full Gonski must be implemented. This is a moral issue. The benefits to our children, schools, communities and ultimately the country are relying on a fair funding model based on need. Do not let the Federal Government shirk its responsibility of providing a quality, free, secular education that meets the need of every child and allows them to reach the national benchmarks of learning.

**I am a** Parent

This email was sent from the NSW Teachers Federation website.