

**Submission  
No 214**

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

**Organisation:** Girraween Public School

**Date received:** 21 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.**

Additional human resources are needed in each classroom, particularly in a support context (e.g. teacher's aides for students with greater needs, supplemental programs targeted toward specialist interventions such as MultiLit)

**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.**

Additional funding is needed for students in support and mainstream classrooms to accommodate for disabilities, including the acquisition of resources (such as tilted desks, visual resources) and specialist interventions (e.g. occupational therapy, speech pathology, vision specialists)

**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.**

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

This is presently working effectively at our school; however, greater training among mainstream teachers to address disability and its associated issues would be of use.

**E) Any other related matters.**

Additional funding is crucial to ensure our students with disabilities are not left behind and are able to integrate successfully in society.

**Organisation** Girraween Public School

This email was sent from the NSW Teachers Federation website.