

**Submission  
No 231**

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

**Organisation:** Mr Theo Bougatsas

**Date received:** 23 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.**

There must be an absolute addressing of any identified inequity in resourcing for students with a disability as a matter of complete urgency.

**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.**

The delivery of education to our most needy students including those with disability has not met the levels that can even be deemed reasonable

**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.**

In essence adequate progress in Special Needs education has not been made.

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

The measures by which concerns can be raised has not permitted a mechanism that can initiate appropriate change when reasonable concerns are made.

**E) Any other related matters.**

The critical nature of ensuring the provision of Special Needs Education funding is established and genuinely identified as a priority is a clear measure of our more wholistic view of the provision of education

**Name** Theo Bougatsas

**I am a** Parent

This email was sent from the NSW Teachers Federation website.