

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential



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.

we need adjustments to teaching, learning and assessment activities; students who need Integration Funding and placement support; specialist equipment and/or environmental adjustments; require support and intervention from the relevant personnel in the Educational Services team;

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.

we are going to need Professional learning for skilled and knowledgeable teachers; support for students with disability in regular classrooms; Special schools as centres of expertise; an understanding of assessing learning and support needs

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.

That the NSW Government substantially increase funding for students with disabilities and special needs in NSW Government schools to ensure all students have equitable access to education; That the NSW Government, in its submission to the Commonwealth school funding review, advocate a transparent funding mechanism to meet the need of students with disabilities or additional learning needs. That the NSW Government address the current anomaly in which Schools for Specific Purposes are staffed and funded on a primary school formula, even though they cater for a large number of high school aged students.

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

We need resources/support etc to be able to establish meaningful relationships with parents/carers of students with disability; work with and consult with parents/carers of students with disability; respond to concerns and complaints raised by parents/carers of students with disability

E) Any other related matters.

we need to be able to deliver equity and excellence to every student and be able to produce/implement/instigate whatever program/s are needed for our students in our workplace/network/system need