

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

**Name:** Ms Annie Farmer

**Date received:** 24 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.**

In spite of the recommendations of the Gonski report there is "less for more" when it comes to the provisions by government for students with a disability. As the only full time LaST in a government high school in 2016/2017 I have written over 50 Individual Education Plans to assist mainstream students with a disability to access their curriculum. This is an increase of somewhere between 80 to 100% on the number required for students with a diagnosis in 2015. In this time there has not been an increase in the LaST or SLSO support for these (effectively) unfunded students. These are primarily the students who are funded through the overall school funding. These students do not automatically receive extra funding. With the commitment of the Gonski recommendations all these students would be more adequately funded to better support their high needs during education.

#### **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.**

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

#### **E) Any other related matters.**

**Name** Annie Farmer

**I am a** Teacher

This email was sent from the NSW Teachers Federation website.