

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 23 February 2017

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.

For those students who need access to in school specialist support (i.e. support from Learning and Support Teacher, School Counsellor, School Learning Support Officer, Learning and Support Team guidance/intervention)

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.

◦Is the Learning and Support teacher at your workplace a specialist i.e. do they have adequate qualifications and/or experience to "provide direct and timely specialist assistance to students in regular classes with additional learning and support needs and their teachers"?

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 Department of Education and Training require all mainstream NSW Government schools to establish or be resourced by a school learning support team. How many schools actually have a well established school learning support team?

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

Does your school have the capacity and resources to adequately and in a timely fashion: ◦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.

To deliver equity and excellence to every student, we need student with disability loading deliver by FULL GONSKI funding.