

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

Name: Ms Kathryn Bellach

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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.

At my metro Sydney primary school we have a support unit of 4 classes. Every year we have to fight to find places of for students going to high school. For the last 2 years the number of places needed have not been matched by places. This means that some of our students who have been in a supportive environment and small class sizes have gone to high school in the mainstream along with everyone else. They have no support, normal classes and are struggling. This is not fair.

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.

Our school has used its ram funding to employ a speech therapist 2 days per week and an OT 1 day per week. This is far less than we need. Our students deserve more resources and funding.

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.

At my school we struggle to find SLSO's that have been through the training course. The system needs to encourage and support people to go through this course. The SLSO's once they have been trained feel far more confident in supporting students and their needs. Our students deserve better support.

D) Complaint and review mechanisms within the school systems in New South Wales

for parents and carers.

E) Any other related matters.

Name Kathryn Bellach

I am a Teacher

This email was sent from the NSW Teachers Federation website.