

**Submission  
No 307**

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

**Name:** Name suppressed  
**Date received:** 26 February 2017

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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.**

Our students are being underfunded in every aspect and it will have profound effects on the quality of life of those individuals and our society into the future. We have had applications for support for students which take 2 years to process, meanwhile these students are falling further behind or losing interest completely in their education. This is also adding to the mental health issues we are experiencing with our children. I have had as many as 14 students in one class who need modifications, some significant and there is no funding for any of them. Terrible pressure on the teachers and terrible situation for our students. We are not a poor country and we must provide quality education for all.

#### **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 ridiculously underfunded and teachers are being asked to cater without support, training or SLSO time for an ever increasing range of adjustments in the classroom. The system is broken!!

#### **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.**

Our students are terribly underfunded.

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

**for parents and carers.**

The whole system is broken. DET has removed so much administration staff that there is nobody to help with any problems.

**E) Any other related matters.**

We must provide support both for these students and for the teachers. We are risking the wellbeing of both. The system is broken, kids are at risk. Teachers are not given the training and support required to cater for all the disabilities which present in the classroom.