

**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.

I believe the current standard of assessment is unfair as students with obvious physical disabilities are seemingly taken into account before students with special needs that require more review or assessment.

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.

Teachers that are not specialist trained in special education are required to integrate students with special needs into mainstream classes, thus taking a great portion of time away from the rest of the class so that the teacher can give the student with special needs the attention that they require. Not very fair for the rest of the class. Not really Every Student.

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.

Appears to be a great deal of suggestions and rhetoric, but there seems to be a lack of evidence of these suggestions being fulfilled in the school environment. In other words, another waste of tax-payers money to fund an inquiry that never was intended to be followed up.

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

Most schools that I've had the honour to visit do try their best to accommodate the needs of students and parents/caregivers with special needs. However, with lack of funding/resources, there is limit to how far a school can accomplish this.

E) Any other related matters.

This email was sent from the NSW Teachers Federation website.