

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

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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 have taught in the Country in 2006/7-extremely limited resources for teachers which means disabled students and their carers/families are stigmatised and students literacy and numeracy outcomes and long term hope diminished. Carers earning capacity reduced. Socially isolated.

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.

I am not across this document

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.

I cannot speak to this

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

My son who has finished school now-was assaulted twice because he was placed in an unsuitable class. When I complained, begged the school to help - even reported myself to DOCS no help was available at the highest levels. He was vulnerable and continues to have high support needs. I have basically been accused several times of being a narcissist in my quest to make sure my son has/had

equitable access to opportunities. I have lost many jobs because I have had to take Carers leave. I am sole parent. We live below the poverty line.

E) Any other related matters.

I recently taught casually at [redacted] quite by chance in their Special Education block - yes I am biased because I went to [redacted] myself 1985-1990 but having said that - if you want to see a model of disability support enabling students to meet literacy, numeracy and social outcomes - look at [redacted] The students are thriving there - they emotionally self regulate and do their work quietly but also there is cohesiveness in the classroom. At recess and lunch, the staff (including head teacher [redacted] and teachers aides all sit together and debrief and I didn't hear them making fun of students or their carers - (yes, I have witnessed such horrors in 2006/7). Such a united front provides security for the special education students and as a casual, I learnt more in two days at that school than I did anywhere else in terms of teaching strategies [redacted] and behavioural management. The young ones were normal teenagers with unique needs but an absolute pleasure to teach and will be a future asset to any employer. Also, who knows what this next generation may contribute to all fields eg Science, English, Maths etc I find myself hoping that I might be engaged my [redacted] again and even though its too late for my son now to have that kind of education, its not too late for the next generation.