

**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.

The current model does not reflect our student population. Needs based funding should be the basis of resourcing special schools rather than the 1970's staffing formula. The nature of our students has changed as well as the nature of disabilities. Including increasing complex cases of medical, trauma, mental health, violence and sex offenders. Manual handling issues arising from students with risk assessments requiring two or more staff. Limited access to services with the impending NDIS roll-out.

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.

Through the Every Student, Every School policy our staff were up-skilled in the use of iPad's internally. As well as mainstream units receiving the same training. We didn't receive training from other schools, in a reciprocal manner.

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.

No support or funding.

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

Funding for PLPs comes from within the school budget. These meetings are vital to build positive relationships with our parents.

E) Any other related matters.

Concerns about how the NDIS will impact schools.