

**Supplementary
Submission
No 200a**

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

Name: Occupational Therapy Australia

Date received: 21 June 2017

Inquiry into students with a disability or special needs in New South Wales schools
Additional items to be raised

1. The NSW Auditor-General has released a report in 2017 on planning for school infrastructure. OTA wishes to raise the issue that there is no mention of planning for the development of accessible schools in this report. There is a great need for retrofitting of existing schools to accommodate the needs of students with mobility impairments. The need for planning in future school buildings for minimum access requirements is also essential.
2. The inquiry into the needs of students with a disability or special needs in NSW schools would be aided by access to data on the delivery of therapy supports to school age participants in the NDIS trial sites in the Hunter and Nepean Blue Mountains areas. This information can be used for planning therapy service supports for students and should include:
 - the nature of the therapy supports provided;
 - therapy requests by school age participants that have been rejected;
 - the number of therapy providers for each participant;
 - the number of therapy providers for school age children by locality;
 - mechanisms for resolving differences in interpretation of responsibilities for therapy; and
 - interagency planning mechanisms to protect students from falling through the gaps.