

**Submission
No 9**

**INQUIRY INTO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITY IN NEW SOUTH WALES EDUCATIONAL
SETTINGS**

Name: Mrs Eliza McGillivray

Date Received: 19 January 2024

Hi.

My niece is non verbal autistic 8 year old girl and the responsibility of care has fallen onto her parents (mostly her mother).

The needs of my niece are high, she requires constant supervision and can easily get distressed if her needs aren't being met. However my sister has done a great job of ensuring she is generally a happy, healthy girl.

In the past few years my niece's parents have spent a lot of time trying to find a school that is suited to her needs, however most that she visited/tried did not meet the needs for my niece and most importantly my niece did not feel comfortable there and came home traumatized by the time spent there.

That was until my sister found Warrah Special School. This school not only met all of my niece's needs but she thrives there. I have personally seen how much she enjoys going there and how much progress she has made since starting.

I understand that not all kids have the same level of needs but options like Warrah need to be available for those who need it and I can't see how any other option would be better for my niece than the one she is currently at.

Please reconsider your recommendation of closing schools like this down as it would be detrimental to not only my niece but many kids that have high level needs that cannot be met in the public school system