

Submission
No 19

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

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

Hi,

I have just seen my local member mention that there will be 243 more support classes for students with disabilities added to mainstream public schools. What will this look like? Is this going to be students with disabilities in mainstream classes with an SLSO each? Will the current units be dismantled and closed down?

I teach in a private school, so this doesn't impact me as much personally but you need to be aware of the impact this could have on the kids in mainstream education. We have a boy at our school who should be in a special ed unit. He needs a hoist for toileting, he's non verbal, he screams much of the day and he has countless seizures per day. The other kids struggle to learn with him there screaming. I personally have 4 diagnosed kids with ASD and 4 diagnosed with ADHD. There are others who are in the process of getting a diagnosis. These kids can function well in a mainstream classroom but there's still lots of disruption. Our other kids do suffer from the disruptions.

One of my main concerns is that some students in the ED classes would be antagonised just for a reaction by other kids if they were in mainstream classrooms. I have also seen this happen with kids that should be in an ED class. They want that explosive behaviour that becomes unsafe around other children- it is fun for them. As much as teachers stop them from doing it, the kids can be sneaky even with knowing the consequences! Some of these kids need to learn explicit life skills. All the other stuff is too much for some kids with disabilities. Total cognitive overload for them. I really hope that the plan is not to close down the current Special Education units, but to work alongside them and provide more resources. Mainstream when it will work within the classroom and not mainstream when it will disadvantage the rest of the class.

Please don't make decisions lightly. Please consult schools and passionate teachers who will give you honest feedback about what will and what won't work. Please think of the extra paperwork per child that the teacher will need to do. The extra meetings per child that they will have to do. The loops they'll have to jump to receive funding for each of these students each year. Please don't just assume teachers are being lazy and don't want to do this. It is a lot to take on with all of the other paper work and classroom management already in place.

Warm regards,
A passionate teacher