

Submission to the Inquiry into Education of Students with Disabilities

Date April 8, 2002

As Principal of a non government school there are a number of areas that concern me in regards to the identification of students with disabilities and their help in the classroom.

1/ While the support that we receive from the Non-Government Schools Psychology Service is excellent the opportunities for parents to be able to take a child to further professionals in order to accurately diagnose learning difficulties is very restricted both from the point that there are few of these specialists and the cost of further testing is often beyond the range of the average family. As our school caters for low to mid income families I am aware of the strain that not being able to claim these disabilities testing procedure against health insurance means that many families just can not afford the testing.

It would be great if these types of testing could be claimed against Medicare and the private health funds.

2/ It is my experience that often professionals dealing with diagnosing disabilities do not include the school teachers in the process of diagnosis. This is often the case with the diagnosis and treatment of ADD and ADHD. It seems to me that in these areas particularly the classroom teacher should have an input into the process.

Perhaps teacher's input could be legislated into the process.

Submission from:

Graham Irvine
Principal of Regent College
22 Colombo Street,
Victoria Park, WA 6100

Telephone – 08 94704569

Fax - 08 94703898

Email - principal@regentcollege.wa.edu.au