



JOHN CALVIN SCHOOL

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"My Heart for Thy Cause I Offer Thee Lord,
Promptly and Sincerely."

To: Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee

Re: Inquiry into the Education of Students with Disabilities

Dear Committee

In 1995 the John Calvin School's parent association made a decision in principle to accept and integrate students with learning and/or physical disabilities. This decision complying with the "Disability Discrimination Act 1992", has significantly and positively influenced the school's learning program. Currently nine special needs students are receiving daily instruction.

Response to the terms of reference;

- i) Disability criteria are linked to the Target Group Funding program of the Association of Independent School of WA. e.g. standards regarding IQ levels. Great care is devoted to the proper assessment of special needs students.
- ii) Assessed Spina Bifida, Autism, ADHD, and Downs Syndrome; tests included National Benchmark Testing. A high level of accuracy in student assessment is demonstrated.
- iv) Pre-primary screening; Students at RISK are assessed prior to enrolment.
- v) The level of funding is insufficient; much more could be accomplished with adequate funding!
- vi) Special Education Grant (administered by AISWA) contributes to teacher aide employment and special program resources.
- vii) Annual staff training and PD significantly impacts the education of special needs students. This training/PD is not optional.

I am most willing to meet with you as committee to describe "a real school experience" in dealing with the challenges of students with disabilities.

On behalf of the John Calvin School

Pete Witten M.Ed.
Principal