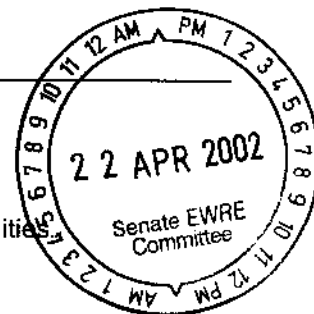


John Lee

From: John Lee <jalee0@mpetriess.qld.edu.au>
To: <jackie.spillane@qed.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 17 April 2002 09:37
Subject: Inquiry into education of students with disabilities including learning disabilities



Dear Jackie,

My initial response is:

- present disability categories do not cater for all students who have severe or moderate disabilities. Some children do not fit into any presently recognised category and therefore one cannot obtain additional assistance to meet their needs.
- resources and funding for all disabilities is inadequate. At present I have one ASD student who needs 32 hours per week of adult supervision (otherwise he is a danger to himself and others). I have an Ed Qld provision of 7 hours teacher aide time per week. The other 25 hours a week comes from my total school teacher aide allocation of 42 hours, leaving 17 hours to help in supporting some 20 students with learning disabilities and learning difficulties throughout our school.
- students with disabilities are an additional management and organisational burden for teachers. This needs to be recognised in a practical way. I suggest that students with disabilities can be viewed as being the equivalent of more than one regular student for example: a level 6 ASD student could be assessed as the equivalent of 5 regular students and class size reduced accordingly and school budget increased accordingly. This type of recognition of need is essential if both those with disabilities and regular students are not to continue to be disadvantaged by the "main dumping being practised at present. I am in favour of inclusion providing the resources are appropriate. Visiting teachers on their own are inadequate.
- Students with ADD and ADHD generally have additional learning difficulties or disability and this needs to be recognised and their multiplicity of needs catered for.

I shall raise the matter with my staff to see if they have further comments to add.

Regards John A. Lee (Teaching Principal)

17-04-2002