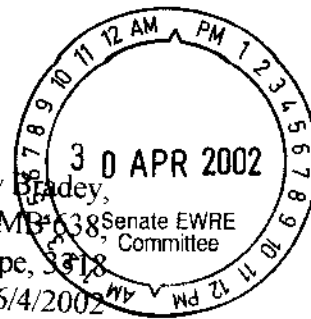


The Secretary,
Senate Employment, Workplace Relations,
Education Reference Committee,
Suite S1.61,
Parliament House,
Canberra, 2600.

Rosalind and Andrew Bradley,
RMB 638, Senate EWRE
Committee
Edenhope, 3618
26/4/2002



Submission to: Inquiry into the Education of Students with Disabilities

As parents of a profoundly deaf 5 year old boy, our main concern is the decline in services for country students. When our son starts school in the small rural town of Edenhope next year, the only extra help likely to be available to him will be visits from the Visiting Teacher Service based in Horsham (one hours drive away). Ideally he would see this teacher once a week, but as the teacher's hours were reduced last year we are unsure whether he will see her more than a couple of times a term.

We are very conscious of the fact that our son would gain much more support if he lived in the metropolitan area. However, as we are farmers, moving to the city would be a major upheaval that we would prefer to avoid.

- We would like to make the following recommendations:
- Country students should have equal access to services available to city deaf students.
- Extra professional staff should be made available in the country.
- More teachers of the deaf should be trained.
- More specialist training should be made available for support staff, integration aides, school, staff and parents.

Yours faithfully,

Rosalind Bradley
Andrew Bradley