

John R Carr.
19. Thomas Street, Mossman, Qld. 4873.
Ph./ Fax. 40981121.
14/04/02.

The Secretary,
Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and
Education References Committee,
Suite S1. 61,
CANBERRA, ACT. 2600.



Ref. Inquiry into the Education of Students with Disabilities.

Dear Sir/ Madam,

As the parent of a thirteen year old student who suffers from Cerebral Palsy and Epilepsy, I feel that the Queensland Government's attitude, approach and understanding of the needs of disabled children leaves a lot to be desired.

On the one hand we have an extremely incompetent Education Minister who can not, or will not heed the passionate requests by parents to provide our school cluster in the Douglas Shire, which is made up of nine schools, with an acceptable number of hands on qualified teachers in the field of disabilities, instead, she insists that an advisory service from Cairns, some seventy Kilometers away is sufficient, I along with others do not agree.

Two and a half years ago when we first moved to Mossman, my son was denied access to the Mossman State Primary School, as he was considered by the then Principal, to be an isolated case and that we should bundle him into a taxi and send him to Trinity Beach Special school on the outskirts of Cairns. After contacting Win News the following day, the Education Department contacted us to inform us that a placement had been found for our son at the Mossman State Primary school.

Contrary to the lies issued in the attached letter from Jo-Ann Miller MP Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education, Ref: 1 which clearly states that Mossman State High School has successfully provided programs for students with disabilities for a number of years.

Attached Ref: 2 from The Education Minister to the Member for Cook would suggest otherwise, as does my personal letter of concern to the Minister Ref: 3 but to which no reply has been recieved.

Further to the above, Ref;4 gives some indication of the Queensland Premier's attitude towards the needs of Disabled Children.

It may also be noted that high lighted sections in references 2 & 5 are in total contrast to infomation provided in Ref; 1

It must also noted that that the auther of Ref; 1, failed to mention that the 1.6, 0.8 & 1.0 FTE is shared between the nine schools in the Mossman cluster.

Some disturbing information regarding the attitudes of school Principals and Government departments can be found in Education Queensland's Placement and Process A Report by Queensland Parents of People with Disability Inc.

P T O

*Available from
QPPD Inc P. O. Box. 470
Paddington Qld. 4064.
Tel. 33683055
Fax. 33683004
Email: qppd @ bit. net. au.*

*Yours sincerely.
John R Carr.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JR Carr". The initials "JR" are written in a stylized, cursive font, followed by the name "Carr" in a similar cursive style.



Ref: 1

P. 1



**Queensland
Government**

**Jo-Ann Miller MP
Parliamentary Secretary
To the Minister for Education**

19 FEB 2002
Mr John R Carr
19 Thomas Street
MOSSMAN Q 4873

Dear Mr Carr

Thank you for your letter received in this office on 8 December 2001 concerning your son, Howie's, entry to Mossman State High School in 2002 and programs for students with disabilities in the Mossman area. The Minister for Education, Anna Bligh MP, has asked me to respond to you on her behalf. I sincerely apologise for the delay in replying to you.

I understand that when you enrolled Howie at Mossman State School, there was some misunderstanding about placements. Trinity Beach State School was the nearest school that could offer him a placement in a Special Education Unit. Howie would have been entitled to taxi transport to Trinity Beach State School under these circumstances.

Your concerns regarding Howie's enrolment at high school, given he is a student with disabilities are appreciated. The Mossman State High School has successfully provided programs for students with disabilities for a number of years. Prior to 2001, Advisory Visiting Teachers from Cairns provided support. In 2001 Mossman State School and Mossman State High School were recognised as a special education class, with a total of 1.6 fulltime teacher equivalent (FTE) special education teacher time allocated to the class.

An Individual Education Program (IEP) is developed for each child with disabilities and this program is delivered in a mainstream classroom setting. Students work either in a small group or individually, depending on what is most appropriate. Using funds provided by the Access for All Program and minor works, the principals have worked closely with officers of the North Queensland Facilities Service Centre to provide suitable space for the students.

I am aware that during 2001 numerous discussions between the principals of both schools took place to ensure a smooth transition of primary students with disabilities into the high school in 2002. Predicted special education staffing for 2002 includes 0.8 FTE at the Mossman State High School and 1.0 FTE at the Mossman State School, supplemented by 96 days of Advisory Visiting Teacher service.

Principals from the nine schools in the Mossman Cluster have submitted a reform that will allow for the appointment of a coordinator for students with disabilities. A decision will be made early in the school year and this will be forwarded to the cluster. The position requested can then be filled at the beginning of the Term 2.

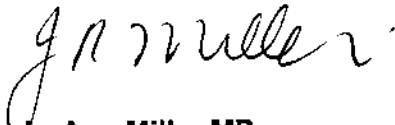
Parliamentary Secretary's Office
Level 22
Education House
30 Mary Street Brisbane 4000
PO Box 33 Brisbane Albert Street
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3224 5957
Facsimile +61 7 3225 1972
Email Jo-AnnMiller@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Re 1
P 2

Officers at the Cairns and Cape District Office are aware of 34 students with disabilities in the age range from 0 to 18 years within the Mossman cluster. I invite you to contact Ms Kathy Caswell, Principal Education Officer Student Services on telephone 07) 4046 5236 to discuss the issues you have raised and inform her of any other children you know who may require services.

Thank you for taking the time to make the Minister aware of your concerns.

Yours sincerely



Jo-Ann Miller MP
Parliamentary Secretary

Ref: A01/12930

REF: 2



Anna Bligh MP



Queensland
Government

Minister for Education

28 FEB 2002

The Honourable Steve Bredhauer MP
Member for Cook
Minister for Transport
Minister for Main Roads
PO Box 2080
CAIRNS Q 4870

Dear Minister *Steve*

Thank you for forwarding to me the proposal by the principals of the Mossman Cluster for the establishment of a special education unit at Mossman State High School, sent to you by Mr John Carr. I sincerely apologise for the delay in replying to you.

The submission could not be included in the Special Education program for the 2002 year. Consequently the principals put forward a workplace reform to employ a Special Education Coordinator to provide services to students with disabilities.

I understand that the workplace reform has been approved and that the Special Education Coordinator's position will be filled at the beginning of term two 2002.

I trust that this information will be of assistance to you in your reply to Mr Carr. Thank you for your interest in the education of students with disabilities in the Mossman area.

Yours sincerely

Anna Bligh MP
Minister for Education

Ref: A01/13221

REF: 3.

John R Carr.
19 Thomas Street, Mossman. Qld. 4873
Ph./ Fax. 40981121.

Office of the Minister for Education.
The Hon. Anna Bligh, MP.

Dear Minister,

I, along with other parents of children with disabilities, have grave concerns for their futures when they are inducted into the Mossman State High School.

My thirteen year old son who suffers from epilepsy and cerebral palsy will become something of a guinea pig next year when he is transferred to the High School, he is unable to perform the most basic of tasks such as feeding himself and toileting, many more of the twenty seven children presently in the school system within the Douglas Shire have the same problems.

The greatest item of concern is that the Mossman State High School is the only high school in the Shire but is devoid of facilities or qualified teachers and staff to cater for these unfortunate children.

The teachers themselves are in close to panic mode as they have never been confronted with disability problems before. They are more than happy to take up the challenge, but are afraid that without qualifications they may not be able to successfully cope.

It is extremely unfair on both the disabled and the abled children that they are, under the present system, forced to be intergrated at all times. No one can reasonably expect a mentally handicapped child to absorb what is being taught to none handicapped children, and at the same time no one can expect students to abandon their studies in the forelorn hope that the handicapped may eventually catch up.

There is a desperate and immediate need for a facility to be provided within this Shire to cater for the disabled students, and to be adequately and proffessionally staffed.

Two years ago, on arrival in Mossman, we attempted to have our son enroled at the Mossman State Primary school, only to be told by the then principle, that as he was an isolated case no placement could be found for him, but that if we wanted him to go to school we should put him in a taxi and send him to Trinity Beach, one hundred kilometres away however, when the media intervened a placement became available immediately.

The irony is that, prior to an election the bush suddenly becomes the focus of attraction to politicians of all persuasions, (the bush has been neglected in the past but we will make up for it in the future,) once the election is over the same old system is adopted, give, give give to anything inside city boundaries, we don't need the bush before the next election, and that is precisely what is occuring in the Douglas Shires education system.

At the moment there are fifty seven children with disabilities in the Shire, twenty seven of them already attend school, I am sure that in a few years time when they leave school, it would leave a far better taste in their mouths if they could thank the Government for providing them with the practicle means of obtaining a suitable education for their future needs rather than condemning a Government which ignored them.

Yours Sincerely .
John R Carr.



...discloses Noon Friday

Robin in reverse

IT seems that once again our Premier (the media tart) Peter Beattie is seeking the spotlight, but this time for all the wrong reasons.

He has announced a donation of \$8 million to a Yank movie studio. Later he pledged \$20,000 a year to set up a special education unit on the Atherton Tableland.

In total contrast, when asked for funding to provide a special needs unit for children with disabilities in the Douglas shire, the response as always was, "the Government can't afford it".

Legend has it that Robin Hood used to rob those who had everything and give to those who had nothing. The reverse is true of the Beattie Government and we have a senior Beattie minister, the Member for the electorate of Cook, which the Douglas shire is part of and who is aware of the situation and yet turns his back on it.



BEATTIE

Depriving the disadvantaged to enhance the futures of a fortunate few is nothing short of outright discrimination, but then this is the norm for the people of the Douglas shire.

If our local member was unfortunate enough to be the parent of a disabled child and resided in the Douglas shire, I am certain that things would be different. — John Carr, Thomas St, Mossman.

quantum physics and the zero joint energy field and all that the existence of this field implies.

This infinite and eternal ocean of energy fills every nook and corner of all space and matter very instant of time.

This background energy must be interacting and reacting with the internal working and processes of the machine thus allowing the extraction of the vast quantities of energy claimed.

I hope the critics ponder on this one possible solution, as to where all the extra energy could be coming from.

If the two inventors are successful, it means the end of need for all fossil fuels and naturally a much better, healthier world for all of us. Roy Carrner, Best St, Yorkes Knob.

HAVE YOUR SAY
LETTERS to the Editor must be signed and bear either street address or box number. They must not be anonymous. Phone number or similar verification should be provided. Letters of up to 250 words are preferred. All are subject to editing and no correspondence or phone interviews will be entered into. Write to P.O. Box 126, Cairns. Phone: (07) 4052 6633. Email: letters@tcp.newsltd.com.au

The \$ 20,000 per year referred above is to set up a special education unit for the already brilliant students in the Premier's home town of Atherton, while refusing to provide extra funding for those in most need; THE DISABLED.

REF 5.

Disabled needs lack under fire

A MOSSMAN parent has called for a special education unit to be established in the public school system in Douglas shire.

John Carr, whose 13-year-old son Howie has cerebral palsy and epilepsy and made the transition from primary to secondary school this year, said there were 34 children with disabilities in the shire with 27 of these students in public schools.

"To service the needs of these children we have one qualified teacher who paid for her own studies into the needs of the disabled with some assistance from the Mossman primary school," he said.

"The Mossman State High School which my son now attends has no

By Lea Blakesley

such luxuries of teachers qualified in the care of students with disabilities.

"There is a desperate and immediate need for a facility to be provided within this shire to cater for the disabled students and to be adequately and professionally staffed."

Mr Carr said he and other parents of disabled children had lobbied the State Government.

"When initially asked about funding and staffing their response was that due to population numbers in the shire we did not qualify," he said.

A spokesperson for Education Queensland said additional teacher time had been allocated and a co-ordinator of students with disabilities programs had been appointed at Mossman State

School and Mossman State High School since the beginning of term one this year.

"In term 2 under an innovative agreement by nine principals of the district and supported by the district office, this service will expand to

include nine schools in the shire," the spokesperson said.

"The co-ordinator will ensure that local teachers provide services to students at their local schools rather than current services being delivered by teachers from Cairns."

Shire wants funds early

COOK Shire Council will seek the early release of road funds to avoid carrying out works during the wet season.

Mayor Bob Sullivan said funding for road-works programs, including the Transport Infrastructure Delivery Scheme, traditionally was released in December and January and was expected to be spent by the end of the following June.


But he said wet season constraints made it difficult for the council to expend the money by the

end of the financial year.

"We will ask the North Queensland Local Government Association to pursue the State Government to have that money earlier so we can get the best value out of it and make it work better," he said.

"It would be great to have it released on July 1 so you can plan a works program properly."

Cr Sullivan said very little work was able to be carried out on the shire's roads during February, March and April.



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Address _____

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(mobile) _____ Email: _____

Best time to contact? (please tick) Day Evening

Please return the registration form and we'll be in touch shortly.
Team entries close the **1st May 2002**

Relay For Life
Queensland Cancer Fund
P.O. Box 1068
Bungalow, Q. 4870.
Enquiries:
Mark Bousen - QCF
4031 1555





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