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**South Australian Association Of State School Organisations Inc.**

Wednesday November 26, 2014

The Hon Jennifer Rankine  
Minister for Education and Child Development  
31 Flinders Street  
Adelaide SA 5000

Dear Minister,

**Re: PricewaterhouseCoopers Student Disability Report**

We recently learned of a report on support for students with a disability in schools; prepared for yourself and the other education ministers.

The report apparently found that close to 20% of students have a learning disability - nearly double previous estimates. Most important, it is more than three times the number of students who actually receive support.

Special needs funding is a key education issue - nowhere more so than South Australia. Reports such as 'Gonski' have uncovered that South Australia has nearly twice as many special needs students as the Australian average.

Reports also show SA spends just one third of the Australian average, per special needs student.

If previous figures are in fact an under-representation, it has significant implications for the support afforded SA's special needs students, their quality of education and future opportunities.

We are disappointed education ministers have reportedly chosen to keep the report secret and we ask that you release the report to South Australia's parents and education community.

In the wake of the Debelle sex abuse cover-up, the Weatherill Government said, "*We need to change the way that we relate to parents....*"

Surely, key to this, is to be open and transparent with the facts.

On behalf of parents of special needs children - of which I am one - I ask you to release this report, so we can all see the true state of special needs support and begin a genuine dialogue about how we are going to fix this vital aspect of education.

Yours sincerely

Paula Lowe  
Vice-President