

Parliamentary Inquiry - Special Needs Education In South Australia

Parliament is now calling for submissions from parents, for the parliamentary inquiry into special needs education in South Australia.

The inquiry is a result of a motion by Dignity for Disability's Kelly Vincent - a member of the upper house of South Australia's parliament.

Ms. Vincent called for the inquiry because of 'overwhelming evidence from parents that students with disabilities are regularly being suspended or excluded from the education system'.

The inquiry is being conducted by a 5-person Select Committee - chaired by Ms. Vincent.

The Committee is keen to hear from any individual or organisation with an interest or information on the experiences of special needs children or their families in SA's schools.

There are two ways you can have your say:

1. You can meet with the committee and share your thoughts in person.
2. You can make a written 'submission'.

While it sounds formal, a submission 'can be as simple as a letter, or series of dot points, or it can be a more formal document'.

This is a rare opportunity for parents and the South Australian community to be heard.

You can have your say on any issue or experience related to special needs children in SA's preschools, primary and secondary schools.

Your submission can be confidential.

Terms of Reference

- The experiences of special needs students, their families and advocates in the South Australian education system.

- Discrimination, which includes victimisation and harassment of students with disabilities; including the failure of schools to support students to reach their full potential on an equal basis with non-disabled children.
- Experiences of segregation, restraint, lack of social opportunities and inadequate support for personal care.
- The current level of training for teachers and other staff regarding students with disabilities.
- School-based policies & funding for behaviour management for students with disabilities.
- Availability of specialist staff in regional South Australia.
- Any other matter.

For more information, or to send your 'submission', please contact Ms. Leslie Guy, Secretary to the Committee:

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You can also contact SAASSO on 8223 2266 or info@saasso.asn.au for advice. ■

