Support Our Kids

STOP CUTS TO DISABILITY FUNDING IN OUR SCHOOLS.

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members
of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales,

The Petition of residents of the State of New South Wales brings to the attention of the House our serious concern regarding the decision of the NSW government to cut funding for disability support to children in 272 schools around NSW starting Term 3, 2012.

We are appalled by this decision and strongly believe that the Government's ***Every Student, Every School*** initiative contradicts well-established Departmental and disability policy by:

1. Cutting support to children with a disability (or those with a functional educational need) who require it. This is at odds with the general view in education that we should seek to support every student to acquire the core skills to equip them for further learning and adult life.
2. Making it more difficult for these affected schools to meet the Disability Standards in Education in the Disability Discrimination Act, namely, the Standard that requires "schools to treat students with disabilities on the same basis as students without disability".
3. Acting against a needs-based approach by relying solely on a funding formula incorporating NAPLAN results and general community disability prevalence. This formula has no direct correlation to the actual needs of children in a school.

Further this decision could subject our schools to a possible breach of Article 24 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with a Disability, by making it more difficult for schools to provide "effective individualized support measures" to students with a disability.

The undersigned petitioners therefore demand the Legislative Assembly reinstate the needs-based funding removed from the 272 schools whilst maintaining the required support for children in other schools under the Every Student, Every School initiative.

NAME	ADDRESS	EMAIL	SIGNATURE

Please return completed petitions to: Marrickville West P&C
EMAIL: marrickvillewestpublicschool@pandcaffiliate.org.au
or POST: Cnr Livingstone & Beauchamp Sts Marrickville, NSW, 2204

Thank you!