



AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION Inc

The Australian Association of Special Education (AASE) is a national educational association which prides itself on its diverse membership, inclusive of school leaders, teachers, therapists, community members, parents, administrators and university academics.

We welcome the announcement made on April 5th of a Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability.

Several AASE Members contributed to the draft Terms of Reference. Final terms of reference have now been released: <https://www.dss.gov.au/disability-and-carers-royal-commission-into-violence-abuse-neglect-and-exploitation-of-people-with-disability/royal-commission-into-violence-abuse-neglect-and-exploitation-of-people-with-disability-letters-patent-terms-of-reference>

AASE welcomes the opportunity to make a submission on behalf of our members.

Recent national and state reviews have highlighted pre-existing concerns in relation to the treatment of students with disabilities. These concerns have suggested needs for:

- increased promotion and experience of quality, inclusive education practices, inhibiting social and academic marginalisation (Education of students with a disability or special needs in New South Wales, 2017)
- effective approaches for the prevention of bullying (Education and Employment References Committee, 2016)
- positive and preventative behavioural approaches, replacing aversive practices (Education and Employment References Committee, 2016; SA Select Committee, 2017)
- increased access to supports during transition times (SA Select Committee, 2017)
- increased collaborative planning processes (SA Select Committee, 2017).

AASE will soon begin the process of surveying our members in order to ensure our submission is representative of broad, national concerns. AASE members are also entitled and encouraged to make submissions of their own. We welcome this opportunity to advocate for safe, quality and inclusive educational experiences for students with disabilities.

Dr. Peter Walker

AASE National President

20/6/19