



AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION Inc

A response to ASEPA's open letter, published October 24th, and questions raised in senate on 26th October (Education and Employment Legislation Committee - Estimates).

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.

ASEPA's recent open letter referred to an invitation to participate with them on their \$622,000 Leading Learning 4 All project. We would like to clarify the following:

- An offer was indeed made to AASE, in the form of a telephone call which asked for an immediate decision regarding project participation. This did not allow us time to communicate, consult or collaborate. As a result, we declined involvement.
- No mention was made during this offer of any funding to support participation.

In regard to the questions raised in senate we would like to clarify the following:

- The 'additional' \$174,000 project regarding the Disability Discrimination Act, as later corrected in proceedings, did not involve partnership between ASEPA and AASE.

AASE prides itself on its advocacy for the quality teaching of students with disabilities, which extends to ensuring the provision of quality, evidence-based resourcing for all. We respond regularly to timely requests for input and collaboration, at both state and national levels.

We note that several AASE members, including the NSW chapter, are amongst the signatories to the Open Letter to Simon Birmingham (<https://openletterll4all.com/>), raising concerns about the LL4All resource. AASE looks forward to hearing a response to the Open Letter, and welcome transparency regarding any review or evaluation of this funding commitment.

AASE welcomes future opportunities to provide support, ensuring that materials developed are of a sufficient quality to be strongly supported by all stakeholders, including people with disabilities, their families, disability organisations, and educators.

Mr. Peter Walker

AASE National President

9/11/17