

Submission

To	The NSW Parliament General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2
Regarding	Inquiry into the provision of education to students with a disability or special needs
By	Attendant Care Industry Association of NSW Inc
Date	16 February 2010

Response to Term of Reference 4:

The adequacy of integrated support services for children with a disability in mainstream settings, such as school classrooms

About ACiA

Attendant care assists people with disabilities (and their family/Carer), the frail aged, and those recovering from acute health issues, to perform tasks of daily living so as to participate in social, family and community activities in the person's home or their community. It includes personal assistance, nursing, educational, vocational and avocational support, home maintenance and domestic services.

The Attendant Care Industry Association of NSW Inc. (ACiA) is the peak body representing private and charitable Attendant Care service providers. While it is based in NSW, its focus is National. ACiA's vision is that the Attendant Care industry is known and respected as a provider of quality services. To achieve this vision, ACiA provides education, resources and support to the industry and has now also developed a management systems standard (endorsed by JAS-ANZ) that addresses specific attendant care quality requirements.

As we understand that it is likely that there will be a very large number of responses being submitted, ACiA has elected only to provide feedback on the section that we believe is most relevant to our members and the people they serve.

Issue: Provision of Equipment in the Classroom

Currently there appear to be no clear guidelines on the provision of equipment required by students with a disability or special needs in the classroom. Without clear guidelines in place, disputes occur between the funding bodies as to who has to pay for which pieces of equipment. This is particularly an issue when a piece of equipment such as a standing frame is required at home and in the classroom. PADP will only pay for one and DET state they are not funded to pay for 'additional' equipment. For more severely disabled children this may mean they are unable to attend school for up to a year whilst a resolution is sought.