

*** MEDIA RELEASE***

For immediate release

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Children with Disability Australia welcomes \$47.9 million to support students with disability - a good interim step

Children with Disability Australia (CDA) welcomes the Federal Government's announcement today to provide \$47.9 million to support children in NSW Government schools under the national \$200 million More Support for Students with Disabilities initiative.

CDA is the national peak body for children and young people with disability aged 0-25 with the mandate of building respect, recognition and inclusion for children & young people with disability. The organisation has 5000 members nationally.

Many families report to CDA that their children have limited opportunities and are subjected to low expectations, exclusion, bullying and discrimination.

“It is very pleasing to see students with disability as a focus of the government's education agenda” says Stephanie Gotlib, Executive Officer of CDA. “This funding will assist in the interim with the provision of much needed resources and support for students with disability. CDA awaits the release of the Gonski review which will provide valuable input regarding the much needed systemic change required where students with disability are concerned. It is also vital that the States and Commonwealth work cooperatively to create a better educational system for students with disability.”

“Increased funding is an imperative part of the changes required where students with disability are concerned but CDA believes much broader reforms are required. It is important that issues such as needs assessment of students, teacher training, models of delivering student support, curriculum and social inclusion are reviewed.” says Ms Gotlib. “It is vital that the range of significant challenges facing students with disability are addressed.”

FOR INTERVIEW:

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