



DISABILITY & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSIONER

ACT Human Rights Commission

Chair
Standing Committee on Education, Training and Youth Affairs
Legislative Assembly

Dear Ms Bresnan

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Inquiry into the Educational Achievement Gap in the ACT.

It would be helpful if any consideration of gaps in educational achievement in the ACT included outcomes for students with disability, as well as students from different socio-economic backgrounds. While many students with disability are also under a socio-economic disadvantage, a clear measure of students with a disability as against the student population as a whole would clarify the extent of the gap in educational outcomes in relation to what is arguably the biggest minority group in the ACT. If disability were considered in relation to other contributors to educational outcomes, any multiplier affect could also be assessed.

While the government is undertaking a review into special education (the Shaddock Review), when considering educational outcomes across the Territory, disability should be considered as a factor that may have just as significant an impact as socio-economic status, gender or status as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person.

Yours sincerely

Julie Field
Disability & Community Services Commissioner
23 September 2009