

# WAPPA's SEN Assertions

**Purpose:** to advocate and support the WAPPA membership in providing for Students with Special Educational Needs.

WAPPA believes that all students have the right to be provided with the most appropriate educational setting to meet their needs. SEN require additional resources to access an appropriate education that utilises expert staff and facilities.

**The following assertions are fundamental in ensuring positive educational outcomes for all students and particularly those with SEN.**

- 1. The needs of all students enrolled in public schools must be met**  
The Department of Education is responsible for ensuring that schools have adequate resources to ensure that all students educational needs can be catered for. Schools are responsible for providing an appropriate, supportive environment and an engaging curriculum for all students.
- 2. School Leaders require a sound understanding of the Legislation and Policy in order to best support SEN**  
The Department of Education is responsible for ensuring that school leaders are provided with a comprehensive induction program, including the relevant legislation and policy to the inclusion and support of SEN. Schools are required to adhere to legislation and policy in order to meet the needs of SEN.
- 3. The process of application and assessment for eligibility to access additional SEN resources must be timely, consistent and clearly understood by all stakeholders**  
The Department of Education is responsible for ensuring that the procedure for applying for, and approving Disability Resourcing is timely and efficient, and that schools are supported through this process. Schools are responsible for ensuring that financial, physical and human resources are utilised to ensure equity for all students.
- 4. All staff must have the expertise to work effectively and safely with students who have complex special education needs**  
The Department of Education is responsible for ensuring that SSEND and SSENBE have the capacity to provide school staff with appropriate training and support required to work effectively and safely with SEN. Schools are responsible for providing a safe learning environment where all students have the opportunity to excel.
- 5. Collaborative and reciprocal engagement with key stakeholders to best support SEN**  
The Department of Education is responsible for ensuring that collaborative relationships are established and maintained with key stakeholders at an executive level. Schools are responsible for working collaboratively and reciprocally with parents, SSEND and SSENBE, support agencies and allied health services in order to address the needs of SEN.
- 6. SEN may require access to appropriate educational facilities to best meet their complex educational needs**  
The Department of Education is responsible for the establishment and ongoing support of specialised facilities designed to address extreme complex needs, e.g. Autism, Behaviour, Education Support Centres. Schools are required to meet the needs of SEN where they have the resources, expertise and capacity to make the necessary adjustments for SEN to excel.