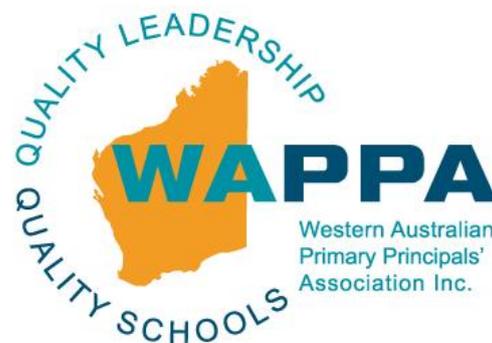


Media Release

3 November 2014



Leaked Report Validates Teachers' Concerns

A report by PricewaterhouseCoopers has identified that schools in Australia are not receiving adequate funding for students with a diagnosed disability or learning difficulty.

The report identified that 18.6% of students on average had a disability. However, only 5% of students are receiving funding – less than a third of those who need it.

President of the Western Australian Primary Principals' Association (WAPPA), Stephen Breen has spoken out about the lack of government funding for quality education for all students, particularly when looking at the principles of equality and inclusion.

“Inclusive education will only lead to positive outcomes if it is backed by adequate funding. At present, schools do not have the resources they need to provide a meaningful education for most students with diagnosed disabilities or learning difficulties,” said Mr Breen.

Education professionals are disappointed by the discovery of further delays to the required funding. The ‘disability loading’ which would deliver additional funding for students with disabilities was to be introduced in 2015. Today’s report in *The Australian* indicates this has been postponed to at least 2016.

“Principals are concerned about the quality of education their teachers are able to provide students. We must ensure that teachers and education assistants are prepared, qualified and resourced to support the needs of those students with a disability or learning difficulty,” said Mr Breen.

WAPPA is seeking equal opportunities for students with a diagnosed disability or learning difficulty through a suitable education environment. “Our members want students to have access to a supportive and inclusive education that does not impact the quality of learning in mainstream classes by spreading our resources too thin, he said.

“Teachers are under immense pressure and we must consider the potential long-term impact. The roles of our educators cannot be underestimated and we need to ensure these roles are sustainable and attractive, he added.

“As schools work to accommodate the educational needs of all students, they are often forced to ‘rob Peter to pay Paul’ – taking funding from other vital areas such as computing or physical education. It is alarming to think that our schools must subsidise funding in order to deliver inclusive education.

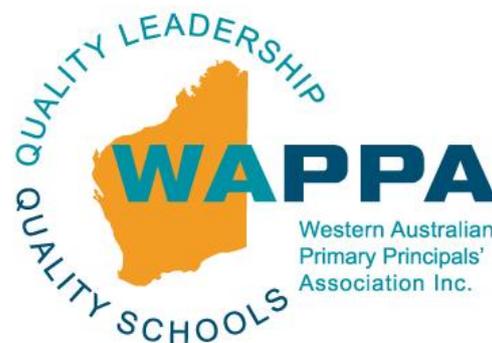
Western Australian Primary Principals' Association

440 Vincent Street West, Leederville WA 6007 | PO Box 1199 West Leederville 6901

P (08) 6380 1755 | **F** (08) 6380 1766 | **W** wappa.asn.au

Media Release

3 November 2014



“Schools are operating in more complex environments now than ever before. The prosperous future of our nation depends on the right decisions being made by governments when allocating funding for these crucial issues,” said Mr Breen.

-ENDS-

Fact File

The Western Australian Primary Principals' Association (WAPPA) is a member based, not-for-profit Incorporated Association.

WAPPA has a membership of over 1,200 comprised of primary school principals, deputy principals and aspirant leaders from across Western Australia.

WAPPA's vision is for *sustainable enhancement of the profession of primary education in WA through member support, leadership development, and advocacy to influence educational outcomes.*

Media Contact

Jasmin Slingsby

Communications Manager

Western Australian Primary Principals' Association

E jslingsby@wappa.net.au | **P** (08) 6380 1755 | **M** 0432 890 898

Western Australian Primary Principals' Association

440 Vincent Street West, Leederville WA 6007 | PO Box 1199 West Leederville 6901

P (08) 6380 1755 | **F** (08) 6380 1766 | **W** wappa.asn.au