

Supplementary Submission 11 March 2010.
In relation to:

Adequacy of pre-service and post-service teacher training.

Further to my submission to the enquiry last month I have attached (see attachment 6-Job Advertisement) copy of an advertisement with DET for a Special Education Teacher.

The Committee can see that although this is the title of the position there is no requirement for a special education teacher to fill the position. Rather, the essential criterion is for a K-6 teacher. The advertisement states that together with experience teaching students with autism, behavioural and emotional disturbance they are clearly looking for a teacher who also has experience in early intervention and early childhood education.

YET they are not considering and have actually EXCLUDED applicants with an early childhood degree.

I have a degree in Special Education AND Early Childhood yet am unable to apply.

How is this meeting the needs of these students???

When I spoke to staffing they told me that the criteria cannot be changed once the Principal has submitted it to staffing.

My recommendation

Principals should be bound by employment and qualification criteria that clearly meet the student's needs, not allowed to develop their own that overlooks suitably qualified candidates.

Early Childhood trained teachers should be sought to fill positions that require a knowledge of students under 8 years or are developmentally delayed to that age range.