

## **Comments on the Schools Workforce draft report in relation to my previous submission.**

The Schools Workforce draft report is clearly a comprehensive, well informed and helpful report. My concern regarding the need for mandatory class teacher training in learning disabilities is included on p.183 under educational disadvantage. I am encouraged at its inclusion.

However I want to reiterate the urgency of the matter. On the recent trial of a national model for measurement of student with disabilities (for which I served on an expert committee) see: <http://www.deewr.gov.au/Schooling/Programs/Documents/ReportontheTrial.pdf> 33% of students with disabilities fell in the 'learning disability' category. I strongly believe that mandatory class teacher training on learning disabilities (including dyslexia) is not negotiable despite other demands on these courses mentioned in the Schools Workforce draft report. Mandatory class teacher training on learning disabilities is normal practice in the USA, Canada and the UK and we in Australia need to address the issue urgently.

Nola Firth B.A., Dip ED., G.D.S.E., M.Ed. PhD.

Senior researcher, Centre for Adolescent Health, Royal Childrens Hospital and Murdoch Childrens Research Institute

M: International Academy of Research into Learning Disabilities

Churchill Fellow