

-whether the knowledge and skills base of the workforce, and its deployment within and across schools and regions, are appropriate to meet the community's needs

To whom it may concern,

I would like to comment on the above statement in the commissioned study. I feel that there is little or no training for the current educators in the area of learning difficulties such as Dyslexia, ADD, ADHA and the likes. I feel that there is massive population of children who's need are not being meet by the current formula. I have struggled to find help for all of my children who have learning difficulties. I think it would be beneficial if all teachers have some training in this area. Most teachers that I have dealt with find that when they put in place the changes for students with learning difficulties, then it benefits all of their students. Also teachers need to be trained on how to identify these children at all stages and how to teach them, rather than put them in programs that do not work, like the reading recovery programs that are currently used. Rather than inventing the wheel again, Australia should use the extensive research that has take place in other English speaking countries such as the US and Britain, to train teachers on how to teach these children and how to identify them. Every school has children with them, every class room has them. Schools would run so much better if these children's needs were met. Its benefits would be far reaching if we addressed this issue.

I noted that Mrs. Gillard, when she was Educational Minister, commented on the fact that Australia is not meeting the needs of 30% of the school population. It does not take rock scientist to know that these are mostly, the children who have learning difficulties and their needs are not being met. If we started to train our teachers in this area we will begin to see change.

Kind Regards
Carolyn Cullin