

# Terms of Reference

## Inquiry into the Education of Students with Disabilities

- (1) Inquire into the education of students with disabilities, including learning disabilities, throughout all levels and sectors of education, with particular reference to:
  - (a) whether current policies and programs for students with disabilities are adequate to meet their education needs, including, but not limited to:
    - i) the criteria used to define disability and to differentiate between levels of handicap,
    - ii) the accuracy with which students' disability related needs are being assessed,
    - iii) the particular needs of students with disabilities from low socio-economic, non-English speaking and Indigenous backgrounds and from rural and remote areas,
    - iv) the effectiveness and availability of early intervention programs,
    - v) access to and adequacy of funding and support in both the public and private sectors,
    - vi) the nature, extent and funding of programs that provide for full or partial learning opportunities with mainstream students,
    - vii) teacher training and professional development, and
    - viii) the legal implications and resource demands of current Commonwealth and state and territory legislation; and
  - (b) what the proper role of the Commonwealth and states and territories should be in supporting the education of students with disabilities.
- (2) That the Committee report to the Senate by the last sitting day in October 2002.



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