

**STAND
OUT**

SEPLA-CON 19

Monday 22nd July – Rosehill Racecourse
Tuesday 23rd July – Rydges Parramatta



The Disability Strategy

Ms Lisa Alonso Love¹, Ms Gill White¹

¹Nsw Department Of Education

Biography:

Lisa Alonso Love is the Executive Director of Learning and Wellbeing. She has worked in government and non-government organisations for over 20 years, mostly with families who have a need for support and are vulnerable at that stage in their lives. Lisa is committed to finding ways to make a real difference with the support we provide to students and families, and building on the strong base of commitment and passion we have in Education. She has current leadership of the Disability Strategy Implementation and is keen to hear from the many people in New South Wales who have great ideas about how we can improve our work or want to be involved in this.

The Disability Strategy sets out the department's plan for providing children and young people with disability, their families and the broader community with an education system that meets their needs.

Children achieve the best educational outcomes when they receive inspired teaching, are embraced by their schools and fellow students, and have the support of engaged families and friends.

We are committed to building a more inclusive education system, one where all students feel welcomed and are learning to their fullest capability.

Teachers across New South Wales, in mainstream schools and specialist settings, are working with students with disability to achieve remarkable outcomes. However, rising demand, as well as an increasing shortage of staff with specialist training mean our system is facing unprecedented pressures.

Our research tells us that service provision differs from school to school across the state and that family experiences are inconsistent. Our efforts to address these issues received further focus during the Parliamentary Inquiry, Students with a disability or special needs in New South Wales schools, which found that there was room for improvement across a range of areas.

We accepted the findings and are acting on the recommendations of the Inquiry. Since this report, we have been working closely with our partners across the disability and education sectors to build our shared commitment to improve the education outcomes of children and young people with disability. We are committed to building a more inclusive education system, one where all students feel welcomed and are learning to their fullest capability. This strategy is evidence of that commitment. Together with educators, disability experts and families, we have put together a plan for an education system that does better by children and young people with disability, and enhances support for those providing that education – our teachers and school staff.