NSW Department of Education



Disability Strategy Implementation

Lisa Alonso Love and Gillian White SEPLA Workshop 23 July, 2019

Our plan





Strengthen support

Investing in teachers and other support staff



2

Increase resources & flexibility

Enabling schools to operate with more flexibility



3

Improve the family experience

Making experiences better and easier



4

Track outcomes

Building an evidence base to measure progress



Workforce challenge – we need the skills of our workforce to keep pace

Demand is growing



Students with
disability increasing
4x rate of rest
of student population

The mix is changing



Autism up 15%



Emotional needs up 5%



Intellectual disability down 2%

The workforce is aging

61%



of itinerant teachers and Learning and Support Teachers 50+

(compared to 43% of all teachers)

Supply is limited



Only 6000 of our teachers are approved to teach special education, and the number of new special education graduates is going down each year

Teachers need more support



"Teachers report significant feelings of inadequacy in ...teaching students with special educational needs"



We need to increase teacher capability, confidence and expertise to support students with disability







Working with universities on better preparing teachers

Work with NESA and Universities to build teacher capability and confidence through undergraduate and postgraduate degrees

Increasing capability and confidence

Trauma informed practice – we will start by piloting professional development in trauma informed practice in 2019 as part of our core PL offering. This will include a coaching/mentoring element to embed practice.

Building expertise to support students with disability

A new Scholarship program -

- supporting existing staff to undertake specialist study through a new Scholarship program.
- evaluation of the program will inform our work with Universities, improvements to induction, future professional development.

Our key deliverables in 2019



Would this work?

If not why not?

1. Would this idea work?

4. Is there another option?

2. If not, why not?

Ideas from group

3. What would it take to make it work?



How you can be involved

Talk to your team about the strategy, read it here: education.nsw.gov.au /disability-strategy

1

Encourage colleagues to sign up to updates





2 Share stories of good practice with us

Email <u>disability.strategy@det.nsw.edu.au</u> for any queries

