

**SUPPLEMENTARY BUSINESS PAPER 1**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**Tuesday, 21 August, 2012**

**Distributed on 14 August 2012**

**Meeting commences at 6:00pm**

**Council Chambers  
Level 3, 2-14 Fisher Street  
Petersham**

## MEETING AGENDA – PRECIS SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS

The following report appears as a late item with Mayoral approval as information required for the preparation of the report was not available at the time of distribution of the Business Paper.

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**Item No:** C0812(2) Item 16  
**Subject:** MAYORAL MINUTE: NSW GOVERNMENT FUNDING CUT FOR DISABILITY SUPPORT TO CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS  
**File Ref:** 4056-03/48072.12

Councillors

### **Background**

Serious concerns have been raised by the community regarding the decision of the NSW Government to cut funding for disability support to children in 272 schools around NSW starting Term 3, 2012.

This decision and the Government's *Every Student, Every School* initiative contradicts well-established Departmental and disability policy by:

1. Cutting support to children with a disability (or those with a functional educational need) who require it. This is at odds with the general view in education that we should seek to support every student to acquire the core skills to equip them for further learning and adult life.
2. Making it more difficult for these affected schools to meet the Disability Standards in Education in the Disability Discrimination Act, namely, the Standard that requires "schools to treat students with disabilities on the same basis as students without disability".
3. Acting against a needs-based approach by relying solely on a funding formula incorporating NAPLAN results and general community disability prevalence. This formula has no direct correlation to the actual needs of children in a school. Further this decision could subject our schools to a possible breach of Article 24 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with a Disability, by making it more difficult for schools to provide "effective individualised support measures" to students with a disability.

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### **MOTION:**

**THAT Council writes to the NSW Minister for Education Adrian Piccoli and the NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell requesting that they reinstate the needs-based funding to the 272 schools whilst maintaining the required support for children in other schools under the Every Student, Every School initiative.**

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Clr Morris Hanna OAM  
**Mayor of Marrickville**

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil.