



**Senator Catryna Bilyk  
Labor Senator for Tasmania  
MEDIA RELEASE**

**Education Disability Standards Review Underway**

The Gillard Labor Government is taking action to help remove barriers to educational achievement, with a review of Disability Standards for Education.

Senator Catryna Bilyk said the discussion paper released today invites submissions to the Review to help better enable people with disability to achieve their full potential.

“All students, regardless of their personal or social situations, deserve access to the best education,” Senator Bilyk said.

“The Disability Standards for Education have been in place for five years and it’s time we looked at their effectiveness in giving those with disability every opportunity to succeed in the education system,” Senator Bilyk said.

“This discussion paper will help us determine how effective the Standards are in practice, and whether they need to be amended.

“These Standards are designed to assist people with disability to access and participate in education and training opportunities and help eliminate discrimination in education and training.

“School students with disability have increased as a percentage of the total school population. In 2009 there were over 164,000 students with disabilities in Australian schools that received support by education authorities.

“I encourage people with an interest in improving the education and training experience for people with disability to make a submission to the Review,” Senator Bilyk said.

The Standards also clarify the rights of students and the obligations of education providers, pre-school, school and tertiary, under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*.

“The Gillard Government is conducting a broader Review of Funding for Schooling, which is examining all funding to all schools, including funding allocations to ensure students with disability can access a quality education,” Senator Bilyk said.

Information on the review, including the discussion paper, is available at [www.deewr.gov.au/DSEReview](http://www.deewr.gov.au/DSEReview)

As part of the review process, face-to-face consultations will be conducted with stakeholders in each capital city, and broader consultations will be conducted with schools-focused disability organisations.

**/Ends 17 February 2011**

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