

Media Alert - For immediate release
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d4d WELCOMES LIBERAL'S NEW APPROACH TO EDUCATION FOR DISABLED CHILDREN - BUT THE PROOF WILL BE IN THE (SCHOOL) PUDDING?

dignity for disability (d4d) welcomes the acknowledgement by the Liberal Party that the current education system is failing children with disabilities, and that it is time for a new approach in South Australia.

All children have a right to a quality education that will maximise their natural potential. Children with disabilities, however, are routinely faced with no choice about their education.

The crisis in disability and education services is placing intolerable pressure on families and needs wholesale reform.

Such an acknowledgement is long overdue and d4d hopes that this announcement will herald a similar shift in approach from the Government. It is but the first step to a fully inclusive education system, in which all students have equal opportunities.

Minister Lomax Smith's comment that the idea is simply "a cruel hoax" is disappointing.

d4d calls for a positive and proactive approach from all Parties, and a clear commitment to include parents in all stages of decision making. An ASD-specific school will make a big difference, but d4d looks forward to the time when students are welcome in any school of their choice.

d4d is concerned, however, that the initiative will become no more than a hollow election promise. It is far too important. Reform will only be achieved with real commitment to provide 'dignity through choice' – and d4d will not relax from calling for this objective.

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dignity for disability (d4d) is a political party aiming to ensure representation in parliament for people with disabilities, their families and their carers. With strong leadership, and by bringing the often fractured disability community together, our goal is to ensure **dignity through choice**.

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