

The A.A.S.E. President's Report

The Aims of the Australian Association of Special Education

When representatives of special education groups from each state and territory met in 1975 to form the Australian Association of Special Education, a set of aims were drawn up to provide a direction and focus of activity for the newly formed federation. Those aims served the Association well, and guided its formative years.

More recently, a working party of councillors examined the statement of aims and found that whilst most continued to be valid in intent, some updating of terminology, to reflect current practice, was necessary. In addition, one further aim (12th) was suggested. This statement related to the Association's intent to encourage maximum participation by parents in the education of their children with special needs. The revised aims were presented, and adopted, at the meeting of councillors in January 1980 in Sydney.

It is considered that the policy and aims of the Association are now reasonably well aligned. It is the task of the Association at all levels, to work towards the fulfilment of its aims. The executive would be pleased to hear from any member or interested individual, who has an idea or suggestion on ways of achieving the aims of the Association. The statement of aims is produced below.

1. To provide members with a national capacity to communicate and share educational philosophies and practices which are relevant to persons with special educational needs.
2. To promote unity and understanding between members of the teaching and other professions throughout Australia working with persons who have special educational needs.
3. To encourage, support and promote, at a national level, research into the identification, assessment and appropriate provision of education for persons with special educational needs.
4. To promote interaction between all professional groups, national associations and agencies throughout Australia, involved in the identification, assessment and provision of education for persons with special educational needs.
5. To act as an informed professional voice on the education of persons with special educational needs.
6. To seek representation on all policy making bodies in matters pertaining to these aims.
7. To seek and promote appropriate training for persons involved in special education.
8. To encourage the professional development of students preparing for roles as professional workers with persons with special educational needs.
9. To produce and circulate throughout Australia periodicals, journals, reports and other information which is in furtherance of the objectives of the Association.
10. To plan and organize national conferences, seminars and other meetings in furtherance of the aims of the Association.
11. To encourage the community to afford to each person with special educational needs the dignity of the individual and his/her rights as stated in the Declaration of Human Rights.
12. To encourage and assist parents to be involved to their maximum ability, in the education of their child with special needs.

J.A. Burge
President A.A.S.E.