

RESPONSE TO CONSTITUENT

ASKED BY: Mr Josh Willie MP

ANSWERED BY: Minister for Education

QUESTION:

Recently I wrote to you about Spencer Logan, a 19-year-old Tasmanian who lives with rare neurological disorder conditions that cause severe treatment-resistant epilepsy and intellectual disability. Spencer currently attends Hobart College Learning Centre, where staff know him well and have developed strategies to keep him safe and help him learn. In September, Spencer and his Mum applied for approval for year 13, and a week prior to the end of school for Hobart College on 6 November his application was refused. Spencer is devastated.

How does refusing a profoundly disabled young man another year in a safe and supportive learning environment align with your responsibilities to education, children and young people in disability services? Do you accept that this decision will cause Spencer distress and interrupt his development; and why was the department unwilling to make reasonable adjustments for one more year to meet his needs?

ANSWER:

Thank you for your question in Parliament on 11 November 2025 regarding Spencer Logan. While I am unable to comment on individual circumstances, I can provide the following information.

Under Section 95 of the *Education Act 2016*, the assessment of a Year 13 application is the responsibility of the School Principal, who must apply the relevant eligibility criteria. Students with disability may be considered for Educational Adjustment Disability Funding for Year 13 where both of the following criteria are met:

1. The student has been unable to complete Year 12 due to absences of at least one term in the past year that are a direct result of their disability; and
2. The student is working towards a higher qualification and requires additional time to achieve this, also as a direct result of their disability.

The guidelines also note that *even if these funding criteria are not met, a school may still support a Year 13 application without central disability funding*. This decision rests with the principal of the school to where an application has been made. Additionally, under the *Education Act*, neither the Secretary of the Department for Education, Children and Young People, nor the Minister for Education, has the authority to intervene in a decision made at the school level.

I acknowledge the concerns raised in your question and note your previous correspondence to me about this matter, to which I have provided a response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jo Palmer', is written over the printed name.

APPROVED/NOT APPROVED

Hon Jo Palmer MLC
Minister for Education

Date 4.12.25