

Disability Services – Spencer Logan's Application for Year 13

Mr WILLIE question to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Recently I wrote to you about Spencer Logan, a 19-year-old Tasmanian who lives with rare neurological 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 keeping 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?