

Rodney & Penny Clarke  
4 Cowrang Ave  
Terrey Hills NSW 2084

Ms Kristina Keneally,  
Minister for Disability Services  
Level 36 Governor Macquarie Tower,  
1 Farrer Place,  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

6<sup>th</sup> August, 2008

Dear Mrs Keneally,

Further to the phone call received today from Kaila Murnain from your office, I have taken this opportunity to formalise our position on Daniel's integration requirements as he is finalising his last 6 months in Primary School and preparing for High School in 2009.

As you are aware, Daniel has cerebral palsy and after discussions with Stephen Harris, Principal, Northern Beaches Christian School (NBCS), we are pleased that he has been accepted to commence in 2009 for Year 7 (*See attached Statement of Position from NBCS*).

While the school is already fitted with disabled access they are, however, not satisfactorily funded by the government to provide a teachers aide for Daniel's specific personal care requirements.

Daniel requires assistance to write, eat, partake at physical activities, toileting, etc. and cannot be left unattended at any time. Daniel uses a manual wheelchair as his primary mode of transport and academically is the brightest in his class in Year 6 at Terrey Hills Public School (of which he is a school elected Prefect).

Daniel is a bright and intelligent leader in our community even though he is only 12 years old. Testimony to this is his invitation to represent the Spastic Centre at the NSW Commission for Children and Young People on the integration requirements of young people in our community.

You may have seen Daniel in the Manly Daily and on the Television recently as he has successfully lobbied the previous government for \$500k over four years to save the Orangutans in Borneo and Sumatra. Through Daniel's quest to save the orangutans we have had the pleasure of being requested to host our Prime Minister, John Howard and his wife Jeanette in our home in November last year.

Daniel is an inspiration not only to his own family but to thousands of people around Australia who provide well wishes of support for his determination at wanting to save the orangutans ([www.everydayhero.com.au/danielclarke](http://www.everydayhero.com.au/danielclarke) - This website was established by the Australian Orangutan Project as Daniel is their National Children's Ambassador.)

We have sought additional funding from the government towards Daniel's teachers aide (*copy of letter to Rob Stokes 21<sup>st</sup> June 2007 attached*) however this request was unsuccessful even though it was saving the government over \$1,000,000 in capital costs due to the expansion required at their Davidson High school which contains no modifications for children with a disability.

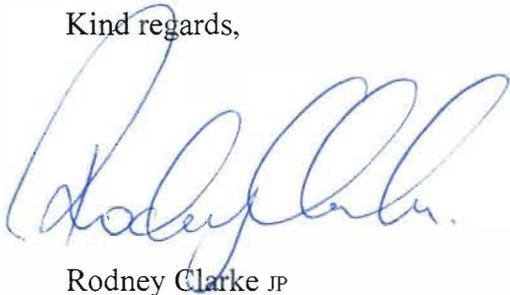
The shortfall in funding for Daniel's teachers aide in 2009 is \$20k and there is an expectation that we, as parents, will need to provide funding equivalent to this on a yearly basis until such time as Daniel's High School education is finalised (over and above his school fees).

Both Penny and I are very supportive, and proactive, parents for both our children, the other being Daniel's brother William (10), and are looking forward to working with the government to ensure Daniel's commencement into High School is successful.

We would be delighted to have the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this further and even perhaps for you to have the opportunity to meet with Daniel again.

I look forward to hearing from you soon,

Kind regards,



Rodney Clarke JP

h: 9486 3062  
m: 0414 444 376  
e: roclarke@optusnet.com.au