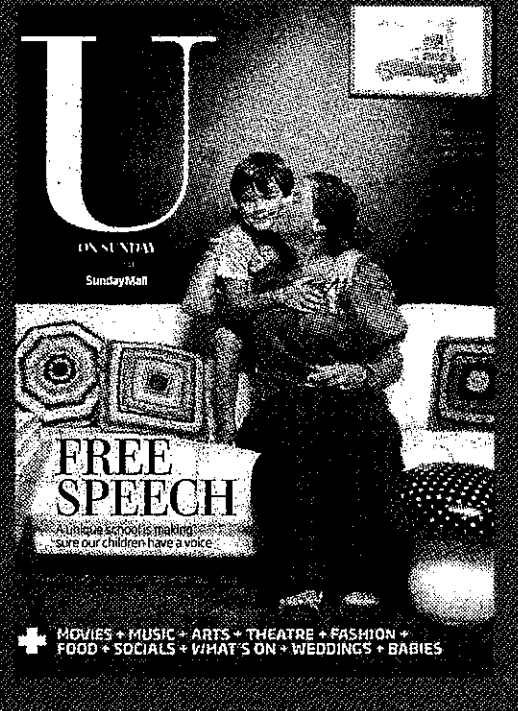


VIEW FROM U

Your instructive article on primary language deficiency and the wonderful work of Glenleighden was educational. If ever there was proof of "mother knows best" it was these stories of never-give-up mums, the lengths to which families go to give their children every opportunity and the beautiful children locked in their own worlds. Congratulations to the organisation and to the mothers who work so unremittingly for their offspring.

Claire Jolliffe, Buderim



Talking point

I enjoyed your article on Glenleighden school. I have a special interest in the school as I have recently applied for my son to attend it for Prep in 2013. It is good that people have been made aware of this great school and sacrifices parents make to get their children there. There is, however, another side to this story, which is the many children who are unable to get to this school - either because their parents are unable

to afford the fees (\$1500 assessment before acceptance and \$8000-plus per year), they are unable to move or transport their children to this school or they have been declined because of the numbers capped at the school. The reason there is such a need for Glenleighden is because of the lack of support these children receive in mainstream schools. These children who need to attend a public (or private) school don't get special support. They front up to school on their first day

unable to say their names let alone write it.

My son was diagnosed with dyspraxia at the start of this year.

What I have learnt since then is that, as your story mentioned, these children are highly frustrated and display some behaviours that would sit on the autism spectrum. Not only that, but they often have the same needs for therapy - physio, OT, speech, low tone, sensory problems - but they get no government funding. At present children diagnosed on the autism spectrum receive a \$6000 annual grant for up to seven years. I waited on the public health list for 12 months and then found out that once I was seen by a therapist it would be once a week for eight weeks only. This condition isn't rare. I have met

another boy at my son's childcare centre with it, another who is the friend of another family from the childcare centre and another who attends a local school that a boy from my older son's soccer team also attends.

The social, academic and psychological problems these kids face are huge. The financial and emotional stress these parents live with is just as encumbering. I can't believe the government can fail these kids in this way.

Meagan House, Hawthorne