

**Submission
No 4**

**INQUIRY INTO THE PROVISION OF EDUCATION TO
STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY OR SPECIAL NEEDS**

Name: Mr Shane Smith

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To whom it may concern

I am an Employment Consultant with Break thru Employment who works with people who have a disability and try to get them into work.

I was made aware of the review into education by my local NDCO officer.

I am a person who has been working within the Disability Employment network (or as it called different names over the years).

I have seen a reduction in the ability of people with a disability gaining access to support within the Tertiary Education system, Particularly TAFE in the 7 years that I have worked within the industry.

I have great working relationship with the Teacher Support Transition teachers at TAFE and they have progressively felt hamstrung due to financial constraints to offer support to people with a disability entering the TAFE system.

From a realistic stand point someone who is able to gain support from a extra support teacher is only offered 2hrs extra tutorial support a week. Now this may be for a course that requires 20 hrs face to face non supported tutorial support.

In relation to the support that are offered in schools where a student who has progressed through a special learning support class where they get often full time Teachers aide support to transition to a total of 2 hrs support would seem that it does not pay to grow up. Because when you grow up you are magically able to cope with a reduction in support services.

As a provider of service to people with a disability within the DEN service it is something that I encourage clients to undertake studies so as to allow them a pathway to employment through the gaining of skills and experience through study. However without adequate levels of service and support the clients will ultimately fail which will further impact on their ability and desire to find employment through issues related to self esteem and self belief.

I understand that there are budget restraints and their needs to be proper allocation of funds to appropriate resources. But if PWD are not offered the opportunity to access studies then they will increasingly disengage from society and the resources will be spent but in other areas such as the prevention of crime and drug related issues when they engage in other activities that land them in jail.

Shane Smith
Employment Support Consultant