

Submission
No 55

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

Name: Mrs Racquel Peapell

Date received: 9/02/2010

DEAR SIR/MADAM,

MY DAUGHTER WHO IS 18 AND CURRENTLY IN YR 12, IS DISABLED. SHE HAS A SYNDROME SIMILAR TO DOWNE SYNDROME. MY DILEMMA IS THAT SHE HAS ENROLLED IN TAFE FOR HER CAREER CHOICE AND WILL ATTEND 1 DAY PER WEEK DURING YR 12. AS SHE IS NOT "AGED" SHE IS NOT ENTITLED TO COMMUNITY TRANSPORT. I HAVE BEEN TOLD SHE IS IN THE "GREY" AREA AND NOT A PRIORITY. SHE CANNOT GET THE SCHOOL SPECIAL TRANSPORT AS IT IS A TERTIARY COURSE AND NOT AT THE HIGH SCHOOL. I WAS TOLD I WOULD HAVE TO GET HER THERE LIKE EVERYONE ELSE. WELL EVERYONE ELSE AT 18YO FOR THE MOST PART IS DRIVING THEMSELVES AROUND. THERE IS NO PUBLIC TRANSPORT AT ALL TO KURRI KURRI TAFE AND THIS IS THE ONLY TAFE THAT OFFERS THE COURSE IN FLORISTRY. IT IS AMAZING THAT SHE HAS A PLAN FOR HER FUTURE AND WANTS TO SEE IT THROUGH. ASHLIEGH HAS BEEN DOING WORK EXPERIENCE IN THIS FIELD ONE DAY A WEEK FOR 5 MONTHS AND PLANS TO HAVE HER OWN SHOP ONE DAY. WHY SHOULD SHE BE DENIED ACCESS BECAUSE SHE IS SUPPOSED NOT OLD ENOUGH OR FRAIL ENOUGH. SHE IS STILL DISABLED. I WOULD DRIVE HER MYSELF IF I WAS NOT WORKING FULL TIME AND ON SHIFT WORK. HAD TWO YOUNGER CHILDREN, 1 WHO IS TOO YOUNG TO GO TO A BUS STOP BY HIMSELF., THIS IS AN AREA NOT YET BEEN ADDRESSED AS SHE IS NOW BEING DENIED HER RIGHT TO STUDY FOR THE CAREER SHE WANTS. I HAVE RUNG ALL OF THE COMMUNITY TRANSPORTERS WHO ADVERTISE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND THE ELDERLY, ONLY TO BE TOLD " NO SHE IS IN THE GREY AREA WE DEAL WITH THE ELDERLY AND PEOPLE IN WHEEL CHAIRS, SHE IS NOT A PRIORITY".! THIS IS DISCRIMINATION AND FALSE ADVERTISING. HOW CAN YOU HELP?????