

Submission
No 11

**INQUIRY INTO BULLYING OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG
PEOPLE**

Name: Name Suppressed
Date received: 23/02/2009

Partially Confidential

20 February 2009.

The Director

General Purpose Standing Committee No 2

I sincerely request that the inquiry into, "Bullying of children and young people" give serious attention to the likelihood that children are subjected to bullying by teachers. Although much is publicised about types of bullying I have never read or heard that bullying by teachers is considered.

In December 2007 the [newspaper] reported from a study that 91% of teachers in NSW schools felt they had been bullied by their school executives etc. It is my opinion that teachers could resort to bullying as a means to have children perform at school.

I base my opinions on two experiences.

Firstly, I was a classroom teacher in the NSW Public System from 1961-1998. Sadly I slowly realised that there were teachers who bullied children. It didn't seem to be an issue until late in the eighties and the nineties. Additionally the issue of bullying was being seriously discussed from the eighties on so it was more likely that more directed attention brought about a greater understanding. I acknowledge that it took a long time to realise that what some teachers were doing was probably bullying. Nearly everything to do with bullying focused on children who were bullying. I believe that many bullying teachers were not aware that they were.

Secondly, in 1998, a most horrible year for me, I witnessed a culture of bullying of children which was endemic. I was also the victim of bullying. When I reported the bullying of children to the authority I was informed, in writing, that the individual instances that I witnessed did not occur. Every way I tried to report to any authority failed to receive a just response.

In October 1998 I finished teaching being unable to continue in a career I was passionate about.

Please very seriously provide a credible opportunity for the Legislative Council Inquiry to examine whether teachers bully children.

Yours sincerely,